

Integrating the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
with Ocean Businesses

by

Katelyn Robinson

Dr. Dana Hunt, Advisor

April 25, 2015

Masters project submitted in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the Master of Environmental Management degree in
the Nicholas School of the Environment of Duke University

Integrating the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals with Ocean Businesses

By: Katelyn Robinson

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Paul Holthus and Leslie-Ann McGee from the World Ocean Council for their guidance and insight into the ocean business community.

Special thanks to my advisor Dr. Dana Hunt for her feedback and support.

Executive Summary

The United Nations (UN) is in the process of launching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These 17 aspirational goals, which replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), seek to alleviate poverty and promote sustainable development from 2016 to 2030. **This analysis assesses the potential incentives and opportunities for ocean industry involvement with the SDGs.** It expands upon the analysis conducted for the World Ocean Council United Nations Sustainable Development Goals White Paper.

Under the proposed SDG framework, there is a stand-alone goal on oceans.

*Specific Targets of the Ocean SDG include:*¹

- *“Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds”*
- *“Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid adverse impacts”*
- *“Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification”*
- *“Conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas”*
- *Restore fish stocks by “effectively regulating harvest and ending overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing”*
- *“Prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing”*
- *“Increase the economic benefits to small-island developing states (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs)”*

Along with many other SDGs, these targets reflected by the Ocean SDG have numerous implications for the ocean business community. To provide some context for the analysis of how and to what extent ocean industries can integrate the SDGs into business practices the first part of this report provides background information on the role of global goals, the post-2015 development agenda, and the SDGs. It also highlights the role of the ocean business community in achieving global goals.

The second component of this report focuses the incentives and opportunities for ocean industry involvement with the SDGs. It outlines the importance of ocean business community involvement, identifies which goals are relevant to ocean industries, and includes an assessment of the opportunities for the ocean business community in the following areas:

1. Ensuring access to sea-space and marine resources
2. Participating in multi-disciplinary dialogues
3. Ensuring a sound business environment
4. Supporting long-term business viability
5. Improving risk management

¹ United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). (2014). Report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. A/68/970. <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1579SDGs%20Proposal.pdf>

The final component of this report is an analysis and discussion of the SDGs relevant to the ocean business community. As apart of this analysis, an evaluation of which ocean industry sectors will be affected by which goals was conducted. Additionally, opportunities for ocean business community involvement with these aspirational goals were identified.

From this analysis, it is clear that members of the ocean business community will not be equally affected by the SDGs. Under the proposed framework for the SDGs, the Renewable Living Resources sector, the Tourism and Recreation sector, and the Marine Construction and Facilities sector are among the ocean industries most affected by these aspirational goals. As these sectors are impacted by multiple SDGs and Ocean SDG targets they are more likely to experience changes in government policy as a result of this new development framework. While other sectors, such as the Business Support and Professional Services Sector, are less likely to face changes in government regulations, since they support other ocean industries that are impacted by the SDGs there are consequences for these industries should they opt not to address these global goals.

As the SDGs have the potential to establish universal standards for marine management, it is in the interest of the ocean business community to develop and implement solutions for responsible ocean resource use. In turn, in order for this development policy framework to successfully affect ocean governance there must be ocean industry engagement.^{2, 3} Potential courses of action that ocean industries may choose to pursue in order to address these goals include:^{4, 5}

- Understanding and managing direct environmental impacts
- Engaging in global dialogues on climate change, marine pollution, fisheries management, and other topics directly addressed by the SDGs
- Supporting and contributing to the collection of ocean scientific information
- Sharing responsible ocean business standards and practices
- Investing in product and process innovation
- Supporting technology development and transfer
- Advocating for full international participation in United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

² Global Ocean Commission. (2014). From Decline to Recovery: A Rescue Package for the Global Ocean. Global Ocean Commission

³ Holthus, P.F. (1999). Sustainable Development Of Oceans And Coasts: The Role Of The Private Sector. *UN Resources Forum Journal*. Vol 23 (2):169-176

⁴ Nelson, J., & Prescott, D. (2008). Business and the Millennium Development Goals: A Framework for Action: International Business Leaders Forum and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

⁵ Lucci, P. (2012). Post-2015 MDGs What role for business?. London, Overseas Development Institute (ODI).

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	1
Executive Summary	1
Introduction	5
Background Information	6
The Role of Global Goals	6
Post-2015 Development Agenda	7
The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.....	9
The Role of the Ocean Business Community.....	13
Materials and Methods	15
Understanding the Impact of the SDGs	15
Evaluating the Impact of the SDGs on the Ocean Business Community	16
The SDGs and the Ocean Business Community	17
SDGs Applicable to the Ocean Business Community.....	18
Importance for the Ocean Business Community.....	19
Incentives for Ocean Business Community Involvement with the SDGs.....	20
Implications of the SDGs for Ocean Industries	24
Analysis of Goals Applicable to the Ocean Business Community	27
Goal 14: “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”	27
14.1 Prevent Marine Pollution.....	27
14.2 Sustainably Manage and Protect Marine Ecosystems.....	28
14.3 Minimize Ocean Acidification	30
14.4 Effectively Regulate IUU Fishing.....	31
14.5 Conserve 10% of Marine and Coastal Areas.....	31
14.6 Prohibit Fisheries Subsidies that Contribute to IUU Fishing	32
14.7 Increase the Economic Benefits to SIDS	32
14.a Increase Scientific Knowledge	33
14.b Provide Access to Small-scale Fishers.....	33
14.c Ensure the Full Implementation of International Law	34
Suggested Strategic Actions for the Ocean SDG.....	35
Analysis of Other Relevant Goals	37
Goal 1: End poverty.....	37
Goal 2: Achieve Food Security.....	37
Goal 6: Ensure Water and Sanitation for All	38
Goal 7: Ensure Access to Energy	38
Goal 8: Promote Sustainable Economic Growth	38
Goal 9: Build Resilient Infrastructure.....	39
Goal 10: Reduce Inequality Among Countries.....	39
Goal 11: Make Cities Sustainable.....	39
Goal 12: Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production	40
Goal 13: Combat Climate Change.....	40
Goal 15: Protect Terrestrial Ecosystems	40
Goal 16: Promote Peaceful Societies	41
Goal 17: Strengthen Means of Implementation.....	41

<i>Strategic Actions for Other Relevant SDGs.....</i>	<i>42</i>
Results and Observations	44
Analysis of Ocean Industries Impacted by the SDGs	44
Discussion	47
Implications of the SDGs for Ocean Industries	47
Moving Forward: Oceans and Sustainable Development.....	48
Recommendations for the World Ocean Council	50
Appendix:.....	53
Abbreviations List	53
Definitions of Ocean Business Community Sectors*	54
Index of Tables & Figures.....	55
Advanced and Unedited World Ocean Council White Paper*	56
<i>Executive Summary</i>	<i>56</i>
<i>Background on the SDGs.....</i>	<i>58</i>
<i>SDGs and the Ocean Business Community.....</i>	<i>65</i>
<i>Analysis of Goals Applicable to the Ocean Business Community</i>	<i>74</i>
References	90

Introduction

The notion of sustainable development has contributed to a significant paradigm shift in international governance. Defined by the Brundtland Commission as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs,” sustainable development is typically conceptualized as being composed of three overlapping pillars: economic, social, and environmental.⁶ These pillars, which form the foundation of sustainable development, emphasize the interconnectivity of seemingly disparate issues. Rather than treating environmental considerations as separate and distinct from economic or social issues, the international community has come to recognize that a balance between environmental conservation and economic growth is imperative to achieving development objectives.⁷ The newest international policy framework related to sustainable development is the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals, which are aspirational in nature, are designed to promote sustainable development and alleviate poverty by 2030.

This analysis focuses on the implications of the SDGs for the ocean business community and on identifying how ocean industries can engage with this ongoing policy development. Other areas of interest explored as a part of this report include how and to what extent can the ocean business community can integrate aspirational goals into their operational business plans as well as the costs and consequences for achieving or not achieving these goals for ocean industries.

To determine the opportunities and risks associated with the SDGs for ocean industries, this analysis was conducted in partnership with the World Ocean Council. The World Ocean Council is a consortium of ocean businesses that seeks to ensure “a healthy and productive global ocean and its sustainable use, development, and stewardship by a responsible ocean business community.”⁸ It engages a wide range of ocean industries on issues spanning from ocean policy to marine spatial planning.

⁶ Brundtland, G. H. (1987). *Report of the World Commission on environment and development: our common future*. United Nations.

⁷ IOC/UNESCO, IMO, FAO, & UNDP. (2011). *A Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability*. Paris: IOC/UNESCO.

⁸ World Ocean Council. <http://www.oceancouncil.org/site/>

Background Information

The Role of Global Goals

An important tool for promoting sustainable development is the creation of global goals, the most prominent example of which are the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and now the SDGs. In general, global goals are derived from international agreements, reflect global norms, and include qualitative and aspirational targets.⁹ They are adopted by a wide variety of actors from national governments to international organizations, and shape international policy by influencing the behavior of nation states.¹⁰ Moreover, global goals express important priorities, guide policy development, and provide a framework for monitoring and accountability.¹¹ Attesting to the power of global goals, the MDGs have served as the framework for international development policy for the last 15 years.^{12, 13}

The MDGs established eight goals to alleviate poverty:¹⁴

1. "Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger"
2. "Achieve Universal Primary Education"
3. "Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women"
4. "Reduce Child Mortality"
5. "Improve Maternal Health"
6. "Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases"
7. "Ensure Environmental Sustainability"
8. "Global Partnership for Development"

By establishing goals for "Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger" and "Achieving Universal Primary Education" the MDGs have encouraged national governments to take action to alleviate poverty and address barriers to socioeconomic development. According to the most recent United Nations (UN) Millennium Development Goals report, significant progress has been made toward reducing extreme poverty, reducing deaths associated with malaria and tuberculosis, and improving access to safe drinking water.¹⁵

⁹ Fukuda-Parr, S. (2013). Global Development Goal Setting as a Policy Tool for Global Governance: Intended and Unintended Consequences. International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth, UNDP, working paper 108.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² Independent Research Forum. (2013). Post-2015: framing a new approach to sustainable development. (Policy Paper)

¹³ High-level Panel of Eminent Persons. (2013). A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development

¹⁴ United Nations. Home. We Can End Poverty: Millennium Development Goals and Beyond 2015.

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

¹⁵ United Nations. (2014). The Millennium Development Goals Report 2014.

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2014%20MDG%20report/MDG%202014%20English%20web.pdf>

Even when the incentives for change are relatively weak, global goals play an important role in reshaping the way nations and other stakeholders consider ideas as they create peer pressure for aligning policy strategies with global priorities.¹⁶ For instance, while MDG targets for addressing chronic under nutrition and improving maternal health will not be achieved by the 2015 deadline, these global goals have created a platform for mobilizing resources and strengthening accountability.^{17, 18}

Post-2015 Development Agenda



Credit: United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform¹⁹

The international development landscape has changed significantly since the formulation of the MDGs.^{20, 21} There is a greater emphasis on the linkage between environmental and economic concerns.^{22, 23, 24} Moreover, there is greater involvement from international institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society, and the private sector in developing global goals for poverty alleviation and sustainable development. As the deadline for the MDGs approaches, the international government community has partnered with civil society to initiate a new series of dialogues for the post-2015 development agenda. This process is designed to revise, extend, or replace the MDG framework and provide a global agenda for sustainable development starting in 2016.²⁵

¹⁶ Fukuda-Parr, S. (2013), *supra* note 9

¹⁷ United Nations. (2014), *supra* note 15

¹⁸ Fukuda-Parr, S. (2013), *supra* note 9

¹⁹ United Nations. Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. [Post 2015 process Photo].
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>

²⁰ Bapna, M. (2013). 4 issues to Watch: Recommendations for the Post-2015 Development Agenda. World Resources Institute. <http://www.wri.org/blog/2013/05/4-issues-watch-recommendations-post-2015-development-agenda>

²¹ Lucci, P. (2012), *supra* note 5

²² Bapna, M. (2013), *supra* note 20

²³ Benson, E. (2013). 'Post-2015' international development goals: Who wants what and why *IIED Issue Paper*. London: International Institute for Environment and Development.

²⁴ Boltz, F., Turner, W.R., Larsen, F.W., Scholz, I., and Guarin, A. (2013). Post 2015: Reconsidering Sustainable Development Goals: Is the Environment Merely a Dimension? Bonn, DIE (Briefing paper 4/2013).

²⁵ *Ibid.*

This post-2015 development agenda is expected to tackle issues spanning from ending poverty and promoting sustainable development to combating climate change and making cities more sustainable.²⁶ It aims to build upon the “real experiences, stories, ideas, and solutions of people at the grassroots [level]” to ensure that the new development agenda reflects the concerns of the very people it is designed to benefit.²⁷

To incorporate the opinions of people from all walks of life, civil society, and other concerned stakeholders, multiple concurrent processes have been established by the United Nations to guide and provide input into the post-2015 development agenda. These concurrent processes, which include a UN System Task Team, a High-level Panel of Eminent Persons launched by the UN Secretary General, the Open Working Group (OWG) on the Sustainable Development Goals, the My World Survey, and regional, national, and thematic consultations, are designed to inform a single international development framework that seeks to end poverty and promote sustainable development. Ultimately, the post-2015 development agenda is designed to be applicable to all nations; both developed and developing alike.

²⁶ United Nations. Action 2015. We Can End Poverty: Millennium Development Goals and Beyond 2015. <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/beyond2015-overview.shtml>

²⁷ High-level Panel of Eminent Persons. (2013). *supra* note 13

Post-2015 Development Agenda

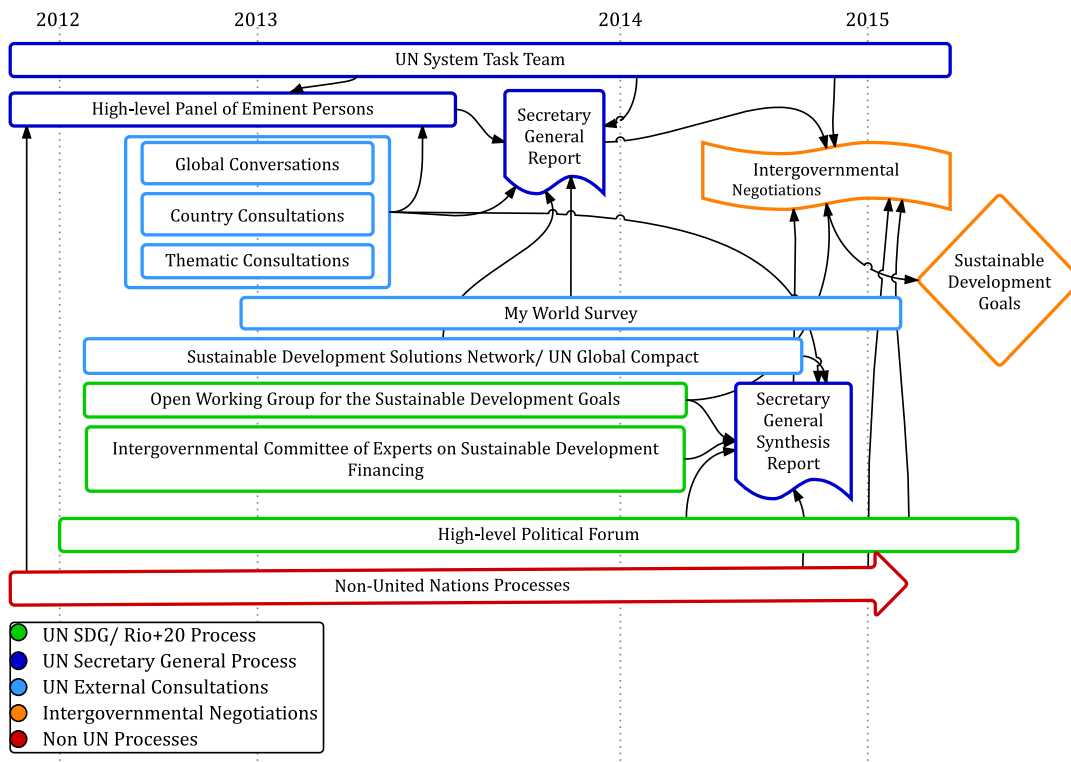


Figure 1 shows a few of the concurrent processes associated with post-2015 development agenda. It is adapted from a [UN Foundation Diagram](#).²⁸

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

At the UN Conference on Sustainable Development ([Rio+20](#)), the international community called for the creation of SDGs to complement or replace the MDGs. These goals are designed to be “universal in nature, providing guidance for related domestic policies of all UN member states” rather than focusing primarily on developing countries.²⁹ Furthermore, nations agreed that the SDGs should be: “action-oriented, concise, easy to communicate, limited in number, and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities, and level of development and respecting national policies and priorities.”³⁰

To develop this new set of global goals the UN General Assembly established the Open Working Group (OWG) for the SDGs. It consisted of 30 chairs with 70 nations formally represented, and

²⁸ United Nations Foundation. [Processes feeding into the Post-2015 Development Agenda Diagram].

<http://www.unfoundation.org/assets/pdf/post-2015-process-slide-1114.pdf>

²⁹ Boltz et al. (2013), *supra* note 24

³⁰ Global Ocean Commission. (2013). A sustainable development goal for the global ocean. Global Ocean Commission (Policy Options Paper #1).

included opportunities for a number of other UN member states, civil society, and interested stakeholders to provide input into the creation of these aspirational goals. In July 2014, the OWG published a report regarding its suggestions for the SDGs. This [OWG report](#), which includes 17 goals and a total of 169 targets, is being used as the basis for final member-state negotiations (*Table 1*). The final SDGs will be announced at UN General Assembly Summit in September of 2015.

*Table 1: The SDGs*³¹

The SDGs		
Goal	Goal Description	Full Goal Language
1	<i>End Poverty</i>	"End poverty in all of its forms everywhere"
2	<i>Achieve Food Security</i>	"End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture"
3	<i>Ensure Healthy Lives</i>	"Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages"
4	<i>Ensure Quality Education</i>	"Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all"
5	<i>Achieve Gender Equality</i>	"Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"
6	<i>Ensure Water and Sanitation for All</i>	"Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all"
7	<i>Ensure Access to Energy</i>	"Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all"
8	<i>Promote Sustainable Economic Growth</i>	"Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all"
9	<i>Build Resilient Infrastructure</i>	"Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation"
10	<i>Reduce Inequality Among Countries</i>	"Reduce inequality within and among countries"
11	<i>Make Cities Sustainable</i>	"Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"
12	<i>Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production</i>	"Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns"
13	<i>Combat Climate Change</i>	"Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts"
14	<i>Conserve Oceans</i>	"Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development"
15	<i>Protect Terrestrial Ecosystems</i>	"Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss"
16	<i>Promote Peaceful Societies</i>	"Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels"
17	<i>Strengthen Means of Implementation</i>	"Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development"

³¹ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

An Oceans Sustainable Development Goal

Under the proposed SDG Framework, there is an Ocean SDG (Goal 14). This goal includes 7 targets (14.1-14.7) and 3 means of implementation (14.a-14.c) that reflect the urgent need to address ocean issues and recognize that the sustainable use of marine resources must accommodate a wide range of users, diverse interests, and multiple-governing agencies (*Table 2*).³² Specific targets of the Ocean SDG include:³³

- *“Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds”*
- *“Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid adverse impacts”*
- *“Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification”*
- *“Conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas”*
- *Restore fish stocks by “effectively regulating harvest and ending overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing”*
- *“Prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing”*
- *“Increase the economic benefits to small-island developing states (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs)”*

³² Elliott, M. (2013). The 10-tenets for integrated, successful and sustainable marine management. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 74(1), 1-5. doi: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2013.08.001

³³ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

Table 2: The Ocean SDG³⁴

Goal 14: “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”		
Target	Target Description	Full Target Language
14.1	<i>Prevent Marine Pollution</i>	“By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution”
14.2	<i>Sustainably Manage and Protect Marine Ecosystems</i>	“By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration, to achieve healthy and productive oceans”
14.3	<i>Minimize Ocean Acidification</i>	“Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels”
14.4	<i>Effectively Regulate IUU Fishing</i>	“By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting, and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics”
14.5	<i>Conserve 10% of Marine and Coastal Areas</i>	“By 2020, conserve at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on best available scientific information”
14.6	<i>Prohibit Fisheries Subsidies that Contribute to IUU Fishing</i>	“By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing, and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiation*”
14.7	<i>Increase the Economic Benefits to SIDS</i>	“By 2030 increase the economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism”
14.a	<i>Increase Scientific Knowledge</i>	“Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacities and transfer marine technology taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular SIDS and LDCs”
14.b	<i>Provide Access to Small-scale Fishers</i>	“Provide access of small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets”
14.c	<i>Ensure the Full Implementation of International Law</i>	“Ensure the full implementation of international law, as reflected in UNCLOS for states parties to it, including, where applicable, existing regional and international regimes for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by their parties”

³⁴ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

The Role of the Ocean Business Community

While the SDGs specifically target national governments, there is potential for ocean business community involvement. Many members of the ocean business community either depend on marine resources and a healthy ocean environment, or they have a major impact on the marine environment due to the nature of the products and services they produce.³⁵

Similar to the broader private sector, the ocean business community not only benefits from integrating sustainability into business operations, but it also plays a crucial role in achieving sustainable development.³⁶ It provides jobs and financing, is a source of knowledge and innovation, and supplies goods and services.³⁷ Moreover, through public-private partnerships and multilateral initiatives the ocean business community has the ability to “collaborate with a wide range of stakeholders to tackle some of the world’s most pressing development [challenges].”³⁸ In particular, multi-national corporations (MNCs) have a unique role in achieving global goals, as they transcend national boundaries and according to the Overseas Development Institute have both the potential and incentive to incorporate global norms into their business practices.³⁹

Several companies have already demonstrated that businesses can play a constructive role in achieving aspirational goals. For instance, to Ensure Environmental Sustainability (MDG 7) Coca-Cola, Cargill, Dow Chemical, and Procter & Gamble provided support to the [Global Water Challenge](#),⁴⁰ which “aims to improve access to clean water and sanitation in schools.”⁴¹ Other companies such as Rio Tinto, BP, Shell, Chevron, and Alcoa have helped build local capacity by “developing more integrated community investment initiatives that focus on local institutional capacity building” (supports MDG 1: “Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger”).⁴² Even smaller-scale enterprises such as Madagascar Bamboo and Nepal’s Micro-Enterprise Development Programme have helped contribute to achieving global goals through supporting income-generating activities (supports MDG 1: “Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger”).⁴³

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ United Nations Global Compact. (2013). Corporate Sustainability and the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda: Perspectives from UN Global Compact Participants on Global Priorities and How to Engage Business Towards Sustainable Development Goals. United Nations Global Compact.

³⁷ Lucci, P. (2012), *supra* note 5

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰ Global Water Challenge. <http://www.globalwaterchallenge.org>

⁴¹ Nelson, J., & Prescott, D. (2008), *supra* note 4

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ *Ibid.*

A few companies such as Unilever, Microsoft, and Vodafone have even made efforts to incorporate global goals, such as the MDGs, into their corporate responsibility reporting.⁴⁴

⁴⁴ Lucci, P. (2012), *supra* note 5

Materials and Methods

Understanding the Impact of the SDGs

To evaluate the implications of the SDGs for ocean industries, I conducted an in-depth literature review for the post-2015 development agenda. This literature review was complemented by an evaluation of the outcomes of the MDGs. Preliminary research looked the role of global goals as a policy tool and how the international strategy for achieving sustainable development has changed from the MDGs to the SDGs. Special attention was given to the role the private sector in both the MDG and SDG processes. As a part of this literature review, UN documents, research institute reports, policy briefs, business initiative papers, and peer-review literature were assessed.

Key questions included:

- What assumptions are being made in terms of the roles different stakeholders play in achieving the SDGs?
- Are there common suggestions for facilitating business engagement with global goals?
- What is missing from the literature?
 - i.e. do suggestions regarding business engagement focus only on a particular mechanism such as financing or are discussions of business engagement confined to organizations of a particular size

Conclusions from the Literature Review of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

From the literature review, it is clear that the SDGs represent a significant departure from the MDGs. Unlike the MDGs which focused more on issues pertaining to human development, the SDGs focus on a broader range of development issues that address all three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social, and environmental). Environmental issues, in particular, have played a more prominent role in the discussions for the post-2015 development agenda and have been better accounted for under the proposed SDG framework.

In addition, the negotiation of the SDGs has been a far more transparent process, involving a wide range of stakeholders from civil society to the national governments. The private sector certainly has had more opportunities for involvement under the SDG framework through participation in OWG dialogues and representation on the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel of Eminent Persons.

Overall, discussions pertaining to business community engagement with global goals have increased from the MDGs to the SDGs. These discussions focus on the role of private sector in achieving development objectives and provide recommendations for business engagement beyond

mere financial support. Many of the policy briefs and reports on private sector engagement highlight how the SDGs align with long-term business goals and stress that companies from small and medium enterprises to large MNCs can contribute to achieving global goals. This increased focus on private sector engagement may be the result of greater international attention on factors like corporate sustainability, the role of the private sector in achieving development objectives, or the formation of groups such as the UN Global Compact.

Trends in Ocean Governance Identified in the Literature Review

In addition to the literature review for the post-2015 development agenda, I reviewed articles on ocean governance. Peer-reviewed papers, UN documents, and non-governmental organization (NGO) reports were analyzed to identify trends in ocean governance and the sustainable use of ocean resources. Along with a potential implementing agreement for marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), the SDGs were consistently mentioned as emerging area for ocean governance, particularly in the context of the high seas. Organizations such as the Global Ocean Forum and the Global Ocean Commission have already highlighted the importance of the SDGs to ocean management.

Scope of the Analysis

As the SDGs are still in the process of being negotiated, I decided to focus on the SDGs recommended by the OWG report for my analysis. This decision was based on the fact that the OWG report is being used as the basis for the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations that will conclude in September of 2015.

Evaluating the Impact of the SDGs on the Ocean Business Community

As this analysis pertains to how the SDGs can be integrated into ocean businesses, the second component of this project focused on evaluating the impact of the SDGs on the ocean business community. Using information compiled from the literature review, I wrote a white paper on the SDGs for the World Ocean Council. This paper provides the ocean business community background information on the SDGs and outlines the opportunities and risks associated with these aspirational goals. The white paper also identifies which SDGs and targets are applicable to ocean industries and includes an analysis of which industry sectors will be impacted by which goals. Excerpts of this analysis have been included throughout this paper, and the full World Ocean Council white paper has been included in the appendix.

The SDGs and the Ocean Business Community

As one of the primary users of the marine environment, the ocean business community plays a key role in achieving the oceans related SDG targets and means of implementation.⁴⁵ In fact, several experts have argued that ocean industry engagement is essential to ensuring the responsible use of marine resources and effective ocean governance.^{46, 47} Not only is ocean business community involvement crucial to achieving the SDGs, but in many ways it is also in the best interest of ocean industries to implement solutions for responsible ocean resource use. With a variety of users competing for access to ocean space, resources, and services, ocean industries must understand how they affect the marine environment and other users of marine amenities in order to operate in a sustainable and profitable manner.⁴⁸

This analysis is based on the World Ocean Council ocean business community sector definitions, which include the following industry categories (*Table 3*):

- Business Support and Professional Services
- Energy and Mining
- Marine Construction and Facilities
- Marine Technology
- Marine Transportation
- Renewable Living Resources
- Ship and Boat Building
- Tourism and Recreation

⁴⁵ IOC/UNESCO et al. (2011), *supra* note 7

⁴⁶ Global Ocean Commission. (2014), *supra* note 2

⁴⁷ Holthus, P.F. (1999), *supra* note 3

⁴⁸ *Ibid*

Table 3: World Ocean Council Ocean Business Community Sector Definitions⁴⁹

Definitions of Ocean Business Community Sectors	
Sector	Description
Business Support and Professional Services:	includes relevant industry or business associations, classification societies, consulting firms, finance, insurance/reinsurance, law/ regulatory planning, mapping/geospatial analysis/data Management, marine technology/instrumentation/software/ hardware, media and journals (industry or trade), oceanographic and geotechnical surveys, and publications/news (not industry or trade).
Energy and Mining	includes relevant industry or business associations, offshore energy service and supply, offshore renewable-wave and tidal, offshore renewable-wind, oil and gas, onshore power plants and power plant cooling, and seabed mining and minerals extraction.
Marine Construction and Facilities:	includes relevant industry or business associations, beach nourishment, cable/pipelines/telecommunications, coastal restoration, desalination construction, dredging, ocean engineering, port development, and shoreline structures and protection.
Marine Technology	includes relevant industry or business associations, instrumentation and electronics, marine pollution abatement, monitoring and research equipment, navigation, and robotics.
Marine Transportation:	includes relevant industry or business associations, charting/hydrography, deep sea freight, marine transportation services, passenger ferry, ports and harbors, search and rescue, shipping, and warehousing.
Renewable Living Resources:	includes relevant industry or business associations, aquaculture, commercial fishing, data management, desalination production, fishing, charter/party, pharmaceuticals/biotechnology, scientific management, seafood restaurants/food service, seafood retailers, and seafood wholesalers/processors.
Ship and Boat Building	includes relevant industry or business associations, boat building and repair, boat/vessel manufacturer, shipbuilding and repair, brokers and agents, and salvage.
Tourism and Recreation:	includes relevant industry or business associations, coastal hotels/resorts, cruise tourism, marinas, marine sports/sporting goods, marine tours/expeditions, recreational/tourist charters, recreational boating equipment, service, supplies, recreational fishing equipment service, supplies, wildlife viewing, and zoos/aquaria.
Non-Ocean Business Community:	includes academic, education, research and development associations, consultants, government, lobbyist or government affairs, media, journal, radio, TV etc., native or tribal organizations, private charitable foundations, sustainability and sustainable practices environmental or conservation NGO, and non-business association

SDGs Applicable to the Ocean Business Community

The Ocean SDG is not the only goal that has implications for the ocean business community. Since many marine issues are crosscutting in nature, targets related to the responsible use of ocean resources, services, and space can be found throughout the proposed SDGs. Many of the proposed SDGs are relevant to ocean industries as they contain provisions related to healthy ocean ecosystems or ensuring a sound business environment, often in a very broad way. Although the linkages between these other SDGs and the ocean business community are broader in scope, these other relevant SDGs are applicable to the ocean business community as they contain provisions that “can reinforce and add additional dimensions” to the provisions of the Ocean SDG.⁵⁰

Overall, a total of 14 goals including the Ocean SDG were identified as affecting the ocean business community. These goals were identified for further analysis as they affect either marine ecosystems

⁴⁹ World Ocean Council, *supra* note 8

⁵⁰ Global Ocean Forum. (2014). UN OWG Adopts Proposal for Global Sustainable Development Goals Including Oceans. Global Ocean Forum (Global Ocean Forum News).

or ocean industry activities. While some of these goals were explicitly mentioned in the Global Ocean Forum Newsletter and the International Chamber of Commerce presentation at the 2014 World Ocean Council Business Forum on Ocean Policy and Marine Spatial Planning, other goals were identified during the literature review. A full list of the broader SDGs that have implications for the ocean business community is included in *Table 4*.

*Table 4: Other Relevant SDGs*⁵¹

Other Relevant SDGs		
Goal	Goal Description	Full Goal Language
1	<i>End Poverty</i>	“End poverty in all of its forms everywhere”
2	<i>Achieve Food Security</i>	“End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture”
6	<i>Ensure Water and Sanitation for All</i>	“Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”
7	<i>Ensure Access to Energy</i>	“Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all”
8	<i>Promote Sustainable Economic Growth</i>	“Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”
9	<i>Build Resilient Infrastructure</i>	“Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”
10	<i>Reduce Inequality Among Countries</i>	“Reduce inequality within and among countries”
11	<i>Make Cities Sustainable</i>	“Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”
12	<i>Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production</i>	“Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns”
13	<i>Combat Climate Change</i>	“Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”
15	<i>Protect Terrestrial Ecosystems</i>	“Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”
16	<i>Promote Peaceful Societies</i>	“Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”
17	<i>Strengthen Means of Implementation</i>	“Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development”

Importance for the Ocean Business Community

Engagement with the SDGs is important for the ocean business community as these global goals have the potential to affect the use of marine resources as well as ocean governance.

Several scholars and ocean stakeholders assert that one of the primary ways these goals may impact ocean governance is through establishing universal standards for ocean management.^{52, 53, 54}

⁵¹ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

⁵² Töpfer, K., Tubiana, L., Unger, S., & Rochette, J. (2014). Charting pragmatic courses for global ocean governance. *Marine Policy*, 49, 85-86. doi: 10.1016/j.marpol.2013.12.004

⁵³ Visbeck, M., Kronfeld-Goharani, U., Neumann, B., Rickels, W., Schmidt, J., van Doorn, E., Matz-Luck, N., Proelss, A. (2014). A Sustainable Development Goal for the Ocean and Coasts: Global ocean challenges benefit from regional initiatives supporting globally coordinated solutions. *Marine Policy*, 49, 87-89.

These universal standards serve as a bridge, linking together existing international policies with ocean-related provisions facilitating consistent state application of existing regulations.^{55, 56} For instance, the targets under the Ocean SDG (Goal 14) emphasize provisions included in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), and the Convention on Biological diversity (CBD) Aichi targets.⁵⁷

The universal standards associated with the SDGs also create a set of measurable objectives that can guide future policy actions, particularly in terms of achieving ocean sustainability.⁵⁸ For example, the SDGs are one of the first international policy frameworks to address ocean acidification, providing an international objective for an ocean issue that was not apparent when UNCLOS and other marine policy regimes were negotiated.⁵⁹ Additionally, for sectors that operate in the high seas, the SDGs are important as they are one of two ongoing policy processes that have the potential to affect areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ). The other policy process that has the potential to affect ocean governance in ABNJ is the implementing agreement for high seas marine biodiversity (BBNJ) being negotiated under the auspices of UNCLOS.

In addition to outlining universal norms for ocean management, the SDGs establish internationally accepted standards for sustainable development. In a globalized society where objectives such as poverty alleviation, economic growth, and environmental degradation are increasingly viewed as interlinked, it is important for the ocean business community to be aware of issues outside of their sphere of operation particularly as many problems affecting the marine environment stem from land-based activities or are intertwined with economic and social considerations.⁶⁰

Incentives for Ocean Business Community Involvement with the SDGs

With several SDGs addressing ocean-related issues, there are a number of incentives for ocean industry involvement with the SDGs including:

doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2014.02.010

⁵⁴ Global Ocean Commission. (2014). *supra* note 2

⁵⁵ Druel, E., & Gjerde, K. M. (2014). Sustaining marine life beyond boundaries: Options for an implementing agreement for marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. *Marine Policy*, 49, 90-97. doi: 10.1016/j.marpol.2013.11.023

⁵⁶ Houghton, K. (2014). Identifying new pathways for ocean governance: The role of legal principles in areas beyond national jurisdiction. *Marine Policy*, 49, 118-126. doi: 10.1016/j.marpol.2014.04.007

⁵⁷ Global Ocean Forum. (2014), *supra* note 50

⁵⁸ Töpfer, K., et al. (2014), *supra* note 53

⁵⁹ Visbeck, M. et al. (2014), *supra* note 51

⁶⁰ Nelson, J., & Prescott, D. (2008), *supra* note 4

1. Ensuring access to sea-space and marine resources
2. Participating in multi-disciplinary dialogues
3. Ensuring a sound business environment
4. Supporting long-term business viability
5. Improving risk management.

Ensuring access to sea-space and marine resources:

One incentive for ocean industry involvement with the SDGs is ensuring access to sea-space and marine resources. Multiple sectors including Energy and Mining, Marine Transportation, and Renewable Living Resources are reliant upon ocean resources, services, and space.⁶¹

Ocean industry involvement with the SDGs helps ensure that the ocean business community has input into ongoing discussions regarding the responsible use of marine resources. Since the SDGs will be implemented over the course of fifteen years, a place at the table ensures that the opinions and concerns of the ocean business community will be heard. While national governments are ultimately responsible for implementing many of the targets associated with these goals, ocean business community input is important particularly in the context of Target 14.5, which calls for the conservation of at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas by 2020. As marine protected areas (MPAs) regulate the types of activities that are permitted in a given area, ocean industry input is important to ensure that MPA placement is not a hazard to navigation or that activity restrictions do not impact business operations without a valid, documented conservation reason.

Participating in multi-disciplinary dialogues:

Another incentive for ocean industry involvement with the SDGs is participation in multi-disciplinary dialogues. There is a high degree of conflict and overlapping interests for marine resources and space not only within the ocean business community itself, but also with other non-commercial users of the marine environment.⁶²

As an interdisciplinary process that addresses all three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social, and environmental), the SDGs by necessity must facilitate collaboration with different stakeholders. These multi-disciplinary dialogues benefit the ocean business community as they not only present opportunities to address how industry activities affect one another and share lessons learned at international conferences and high level summits, but they also provide an opportunity for ocean governance bodies to gain a better understanding of what each sector does.

⁶¹ Holthus, P.F. (1999), *supra* note 3

⁶² *Ibid.*

This collaboration with other ocean stakeholders leads to the possibility of better solutions and allows for businesses to share the burden of risk.⁶³

Ocean business community concerns and interests have already been integrated into the discussion on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through representation on the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons and input into the OWG dialogues on the SDGs through the Business and Industry Major Group and partnerships with NGOs. Groups such as the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), UN Global Compact, the World Ocean Council, and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) also represent the interests of ocean industries in dialogues for the post-2015 development agenda.

Ensuring a sound business environment:

An additional benefit of the SDGs is that they may be able to contribute to a sound business environment. In order for companies to be competitive, governments must allow for an operating environment that permits the private sector to grow and thrive. Generally, this sound business environment is based on factors such as the absence of corruption, accountable and transparent government practices, respect for human rights, peace and stability, and the rule of law.^{64, 65} Under the current proposed framework for the SDGs, several goals such as Goals 9, 11, and 16 address many of the factors that contribute to a sound business environment.

Supporting long-term business viability:

In addition to a sound business environment, the SDGs offer the ocean business community a chance to improve their long-term viability by addressing calls for increased corporate responsibility. More and more, stakeholders expect companies to manage their societal impacts, such as impacts on the environment and human rights.^{66, 67} Thus, ocean industries face the challenge of finding ways to minimize negative environmental and social externalities, while ensuring that business activities are both profitable and compliant with existing regulations.⁶⁸

⁶³ Lucci, P. (2012), *supra* note 5

⁶⁴ United Nations Global Compact. (2013), *supra* note 36

⁶⁵ International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). ICC Perspectives on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. ICC.

⁶⁶ United Nations Global Compact. (2013), *supra* note 36

⁶⁷ Spitzer, H. and Martinuzzi, A. (2013). Methods and Tools for Corporate Impact Assessment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development. Vienna, European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN Case Study N°14).

⁶⁸ Nelson, J. (2004). The Public Role of Private Enterprise: Risks, Opportunities, and New Models of Engagement. Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative Working Paper No. 1. Cambridge, MA: John F. Kennedy School of government, Harvard University.

In order for companies to maximize the long-term benefits offered by the SDGs, companies should consider moving beyond just achieving compliance, and evaluate how the ideals reflected in these goals could be integrated into corporate principles, internal policies, and core business activities.⁶⁹ For instance, ocean industries could incorporate the values reflected by the SDGs into their supply chain management to enhance their public image and prepare for changes associated with climate change. Companies such as Unilever, McDonalds, and Wal-Mart have already demonstrated the benefits of aligning business activities with societal interests by forming partnerships with environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop sustainable seafood supply chains.^{70, 71, 72}

Similarly, to improve public trust and credibility the ocean business community could institute public reporting of its progress towards achieving SDGs. Several experts on corporate social responsibility have noted that the use of international standards, such as the targets established by the SDGs, offers the private sector greater credibility for ensuring good social and environmental performance.^{73, 74} Many companies have shown that business partnerships have the potential to build reputation with respected organizations, generate community goodwill, and improve brand position.⁷⁵

Improving risk management:

Another incentive for integrating the SDGs into business operations is enhanced risk management. Factors such as environmental degradation, poverty, and climate change can add directly to the cost of conducting business by affecting operating costs and the costs of raw materials. Moreover, these global issues can impose risks such as short-term and long-term financial risks as well as reputation risks.⁷⁶ Similar to the MDGs, the SDGs may provide ocean industries with improved understanding

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*

⁷⁰ Unilever. (2002). Unilever's Fish Sustainability Initiative.

http://www.unilever.com/images/Unilevers%20Fish%20Sustainability%20Initiative_tcm13-9157.pdf

⁷¹ Ward, T., & Phillips, B. (Eds.). (2009). *Seafood ecolabelling: principles and practice*. John Wiley & Sons.

<https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=wGhxzFX3rG4C&oi=fnd&pg=PA143&dq=McDonald%27s+and+Sustainable+Seafood&ots=LwN8le1VNj&sig=1YyhvvvCD1yulfrZOSe4uFBY7So#v=onepage&q=McDonalds&f=false>

⁷² Walmart. Working with Seafood Suppliers to Ensure Sustainable Seafood.

<http://corporate.walmart.com/article/working-with-seafood-suppliers-to-ensure-sustainable-seafood>

⁷³ Spitzer, H. and Martinuzzi, A. (2013), *supra* note 67

⁷⁴ Nelson, J. (2004), *supra* note 68

⁷⁵ Epstein, M.J. (2008). *Making Sustainability Work: Best Practices in Managing and Measuring Corporate Social, Environmental, and Economic Impacts*. Sheffield, UK: Greenleaf Publishing and Berrett-Koehler Publishers, INC.

⁷⁶ Nelson, J., & Prescott, D. (2008), *supra* note 4

of these global challenges.⁷⁷ By facilitating improved understanding of global issues, the SDGs may help ocean industries make more informed decisions, improving productivity.⁷⁸

Implications of the SDGs for Ocean Industries

While national governments are the principle implementing authority for the SDGs, the ocean business community will certainly be affected by the actions governments take to achieve these aspirational goals. Thus, for each of the selected SDGs I determined which ocean industry sectors would be the most affected. *Table 5* identifies the ocean industry sectors affected by Ocean SDG targets (14.1-14.7) and means of implementation (14.a-14.c). Similarly, *Table 6* identifies the ocean industry sectors affected by the broader SDGs.

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

Table 5: Sectors* Impacted by the Ocean SDG

Goal 14: “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”									
Target	Target Description	Business Support and Professional Services	Energy and Mining	Marine Construction and Facilities	Marine Technology	Marine Transportation	Renewable Living Resources	Ship and Boat Building	Tourism and Recreation
14.1	<i>Prevent Marine Pollution</i>								
14.2	<i>Sustainably Manage and Protect Marine Ecosystems</i>								
14.3	<i>Minimize Ocean Acidification</i>								
14.4	<i>Effectively Regulate IUU Fishing</i>								
14.5	<i>Conserve 10% of Marine and Coastal Areas</i>								
14.6	<i>Prohibit Fisheries Subsidies that Contribute to IUU Fishing</i>								
14.7	<i>Increase the Economic Benefits to SIDS</i>								
14.a	<i>Increase Scientific Knowledge</i>								
14.b	<i>Provide Access to Small-scale Fishers</i>								
14.c	<i>Ensure the Full Implementation of International Law</i>								

*These sectors are typical ocean industry categorization used by the World Ocean Council (www.oceancouncil.org.)

Table 6: Sectors* Impacted by Other SDGs Also Relevant to the Ocean business Community

Other Relevant SDGs									
Goal	Goal Description	Business Support and Professional Services	Energy and Mining	Marine Construction and Facilities	Marine Technology	Marine Transportation	Renewable Living Resources	Ship and Boat Building	Tourism and Recreation
1	<i>End Poverty</i>								
2	<i>Achieve Food Security</i>								
6	<i>Ensure Water and Sanitation for All</i>								
7	<i>Ensure Access to Energy</i>								
8	<i>Promote Sustainable Economic Growth</i>								
9	<i>Build Resilient Infrastructure</i>								
10	<i>Reduce Inequality Among Countries</i>								
11	<i>Make Cities Sustainable</i>								
12	<i>Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production</i>								
13	<i>Combat Climate Change</i>								
15	<i>Protect Terrestrial Ecosystems</i>								
16	<i>Promote Peaceful Societies</i>								
17	<i>Strengthen Means of Implementation</i>								

*These sectors are typical ocean industry categorization used by the World Ocean Council (www.oceancouncil.org)

Analysis of Goals Applicable to the Ocean Business Community

This analysis of the Ocean SDG and other relevant SDGs is an excerpt from the World Ocean Council United Nations Sustainable Development Goals White Paper. It provides a brief overview of the selected SDGs and outlines which ocean industry sectors are impacted by each goal or Ocean SDG targets and means of implementation. At the end of analysis of the Ocean SDG and other relevant SDGs, a table outlining strategic actions for the ocean business community has been included. These strategic actions provide examples of how the ocean business community can engage with these aspirational goals and help support sustainable development. If implemented these strategic actions could potentially have a significant impact on achieving the targets established by the SDGs.

Goal 14: “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”

14.1 / Prevent Marine Pollution

Marine pollution is one of the principle drivers of ocean degradation and has profound implications for ocean sustainability. Historically, society has viewed the ocean as vast area capable of absorbing nearly infinite amounts of waste; thus, governments have had little incentive to act to reduce marine pollution.⁷⁹ However, with factors such as increased population growth, urbanization, and expansion of pollution-generating activities, the scope of marine pollution has only increased in recent years. Approximately 80% of this pollution is the result of land-based activities.⁸⁰ The international community is particularly concerned about marine pollution such as marine debris, nitrogen and phosphorus-based compounds, and persistent organic pollutants.⁸¹

While national governments will play a role in establishing regulations for marine pollution, efforts to reduce marine pollution by necessity require ocean business community involvement, as numerous ocean industry activities produce marine pollution. Energy and Mining, Marine Transportation, and Tourism and Recreation are just a few of the industries that generate pollution in the ocean environment. These sectors not only contribute to the problem, but they are also affected by the environmental degradation associated with marine pollution. These impacts

⁷⁹ IOC/UNESCO et al. (2011), *supra* note 7

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

⁸¹ *Rio Ocean Declaration*. (2012). Paper presented at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

associated with marine pollution are of consequence to the ocean business community as they can remove economic opportunities for multiple generations.⁸²

A SDG target on marine pollution reaffirms previous international commitments, such as MARPOL and the CBD Aichi targets.⁸³ It will also encourage the development of additional regulations for marine pollution and spur the creation of new voluntary initiatives. Potential policy and regulatory instruments that were discussed at Rio+20 that could result from this target include the development of regional programs for marine litter, the use of innovative economic measures such as incentives to fisherman to remove marine litter, and the implementation of the Global Program of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.⁸⁴

Sectors Impacted: Energy and Mining, Marine Construction and Facilities, Marine Technology, Marine Transportation, Renewable Living Resources, Ship and Boat Building, Tourism and Recreation

14.2 / Sustainably Manage and Protect Marine Ecosystems

A variety of factors spanning from marine pollution to biodiversity and habitat loss affect the resilience of marine ecosystems. Healthy and productive ocean ecosystems are vital to ocean sustainability and underpin the Blue Economy.⁸⁵ The blue economy simply refers to “the transition toward a human-ocean centered relationship where humankind would be living with the ocean and from the ocean in a sustainable way.”⁸⁶ It highlights the importance of oceans to economic growth and sustainable development.

As previously discussed, many ocean industry sectors can affect or are affected by marine ecosystem health. Healthy marine ecosystems are particularly important for industry sectors that rely directly on ocean resources such as fish, shellfish, marine mega-fauna, and coral reefs. For this reason the Renewable Living Resources and the Tourism and Recreation sectors are among the industries most affected by changes in ocean health. Additionally, as this target includes provisions related to strengthening the resilience of marine ecosystems and promotes restoration efforts, this target also affects the Marine Construction and Facilities sector.

⁸² IOC/UNESCO et al. (2011), *supra* note 7

⁸³ Global Ocean Forum. (2014), *supra* note 50

⁸⁴ *Rio Ocean Declaration*. (2012), *supra* note 81

⁸⁵ IOC/UNESCO et al. (2011), *supra* note 7

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

Just as some sectors are affected by marine ecosystem health other sectors namely the Energy and Mining sector and the Marine Transportation sector, are often criticized for their marine ecosystem impacts. Extractive activities affiliated with oil and gas exploitation, near shore mining, dredging, and seabed mining can significantly impact and alter marine ecosystems. Similarly, marine ecosystem health can be adversely affected by the introduction of invasive alien species. These invasive alien species, which are often introduced through vectors such as ballast water discharges and hull fouling, can alter the species composition of marine ecosystems resulting in the loss of biodiversity, have negative human health implications, and can be detrimental to tourism and fishing activities.⁸⁷

A variety of actions could be taken by national governments to achieve healthy marine ecosystems. One way national governments can achieve this target is by using non-governmental organization (NGO) initiatives, such as the Ocean Health Index (OHI), to inform decision-making processes. The OHI is collaborative effort that assesses all dimensions of ocean health –biological, physical, economic, and social– on an annual basis.⁸⁸ While the OHI does not actually manage or protect marine ecosystems, scores from the OHI are designed to help inform policy and management decisions for the world’s oceans.⁸⁹ Other methodologies for assessing the health of marine ecosystems include the use of fisheries performance indicators and Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area Criteria.⁹⁰

Companies like Jet Blue have already recognized the connection between healthy ecosystems and business profits. In partnership with the Ocean Foundation, Jet Blue launched a project called “Eco-earning: A shore thing” that determined the economic value of clean beaches in the Caribbean by assessing the relationship between coastal ecosystem health and revenue per available seat mile.⁹¹

Overall, there is an ongoing trend in ocean governance toward addressing healthy and productive ocean ecosystems through an ecosystem-based management approach. This ecosystem-based management approach is a strategy for natural resource management that views ecosystems

⁸⁷ Max, N., Williamson, A., Agüero, M., Gonzalez, E., and Geeves, W. (2003). Marine invasive alien species: a threat to global biodiversity. *Marine Policy* 27, 313-323.

⁸⁸ Blasiak, R., Anderson, J. L., Bridgewater, P., Furuya, K., Halpern, B. S., Kurokura, H., Nobuyuki, Y., Morishita, J., and Minohara, A. (2014). Paradigms of sustainable ocean management. *Marine Policy* 48, 206-211. doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2014.03.021

⁸⁹ *Ibid.*

⁹⁰ *Ibid.*

⁹¹ The Ocean Foundation. Jet Blue. <http://oceanfdn.org/partnerships/corporate/jetblue>

holistically and recognizes humans are both part of ecosystems and have impacts on the environment.

Sectors Impacted: Business Support and Professional Services, Energy and Mining, Marine Construction and Facilities, Marine Transportation, Renewable Living Resources, Tourism and Recreation

14.3 / Minimize Ocean Acidification

Ocean acidification describes the alteration of the ocean's chemistry as a result of absorbing carbon dioxide emissions. It affects a variety of marine organisms from mollusks to phytoplankton by inhibiting the growth of calcium based shells and skeletons. As it affects the organisms that form the base of the ocean food chain, ocean acidification poses a significant problem to the Renewable Living Resources sector. These impacts to base of the ocean food web are only exacerbated at higher latitudes where colder water facilitates the dissolving of carbon dioxide.⁹² As cold-water habitats in northern latitudes are home to some of the world's most productive fisheries, the Renewable Living Resources sector has clear incentives to seeing this target achieved.⁹³

Ocean acidification also affects rates of coral reef accretion resulting in potential decreases in coral reef coverage. These declines in coral reef coverage not only affect fisheries, but are also a threat to the Tourism and Recreation sector as the "loss of coral reefs will damage the tourism potential of many areas."⁹⁴

Actions to combat ocean acidification will largely fall under the domain of governments, since efforts to address ocean acidification will require nations to address carbon dioxide emissions. However, while governments will be the primary authority regarding efforts to address ocean acidification, the ocean business community can contribute to scientific cooperation through the provision of data.

Sectors Impacted: Business Support and Professional Services, Marine Technology, Renewable Living Resources, Tourism and Recreation

⁹² IOC/UNESCO et al. (2011), *supra* note 7

⁹³ *Ibid.*

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*

14.4 / Effectively Regulate IUU Fishing

IUU fishing has been identified as one of the major drivers in the decline of ocean health.⁹⁵ It undermines international and national efforts to manage fish stocks, preventing sustainable fisheries. Furthermore, it harms those companies within the Renewable Living Resources sector that comply with existing fishing regulations.

As this target relates directly to fisheries, it requires the involvement of the Renewable Living Resources sector. While national governments may improve enforcement of existing policies or create additional regulations, these regulations will be ineffective unless all members of the fishing community comply.

Sectors Impacted: Business Support and Professional Services, Renewable Living Resources

14.5 / Conserve 10% of Marine and Coastal Areas

MPAs are a common strategy for marine conservation. They govern how marine resources in a given area can be used by establishing regulations that allow or prohibit a range of activities.⁹⁶ Depending on the type of MPA there are variable levels of protection and regulation. For example, no-take MPAs prohibit all extractive activities while other types of MPAs may allow for multiple uses. Generally, MPAs are associated with the protection of critical habitats, providing a refuge for rare, endangered, or economically important species, and supporting fisheries through increasing fish catches in the areas adjacent to MPAs.

In terms of achieving this target, national governments have both the responsibility and authority to establish MPAs. While ocean industries are not responsible for the creation of MPAs, they should be aware of this target as the creation of MPAs can affect industry activities. It is therefore in the ocean business community's best interests to participate in ongoing discussions regarding the establishment of MPAs. Involvement in the creation of MPAs can ensure that national governments take industry perspectives into account. This target of conserving at least 10% of coastal and marine areas is also upheld under the Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Target 11.

⁹⁵ Global Ocean Commission. (2014), *supra* note 2

⁹⁶ World Wildlife Foundation (WWF). The Case for MPAs.

http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/how_we_work/conservation/marine/protected_areas/

Sectors Impacted: Business Support and Professional Services, Energy and Mining, Marine Construction and Facilities, Marine Transportation, Renewable Living Resources, Tourism and Recreation

14.6 / Prohibit Fisheries Subsidies that Contribute to IUU Fishing

Overcapacity and overfishing are two problems commonly associated with fisheries management. In what is generally described as “too many vessels and too little fish,” overcapacity relates not only to the number of vessels but also the type and sophistication of fishing gear.⁹⁷ Fisheries subsidies are commonly identified as a major contributor to the issue of overcapacity.^{98, 99} By subsidizing the cost of fuel and offering grants for new fishing vessels, subsidies “create perverse incentives for continued fishing in the face of declining catches.”¹⁰⁰

Similar to Target 14.4, which deals with the issue of IUU fishing, measures that address overcapacity and the elimination of subsidies are of direct relevance to the Renewable Living Resources sector. While the elimination of subsidies will fall under the domain of national governments, it is in the interest of the fisheries sector to be aware that actions may be taken on this issue, as changes in subsidies may affect business decisions.

Sectors Impacted: Renewable Living Resources

14.7 / Increase the Economic Benefits to SIDS

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are highly vulnerable to both ocean degradation and climate change.¹⁰¹ A majority of the essential infrastructure and settlements for these countries are situated along the coast or on small coral islands.¹⁰² As a result of their small size, remoteness, and limited natural resource base, SIDS face a variety of unique development challenges.^{103, 104} They are often dependent on ocean and coastal activities, such as fisheries and tourism, for income. More recently, many are looking at the potential economic benefits of seabed mining in their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs).

⁹⁷ Global Ocean Commission. (2014), *supra* note 2

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹⁹ Arnason, R., Kelleher, K., and Willmann, R. (2009). *The Sunken Billions: The Economic Justification for Fisheries Reform*. World Bank and FAO (Agriculture and Rural Development series).

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁰¹ IOC/UNESCO et al. (2011), *supra* note 7

¹⁰² *Ibid.*

¹⁰³ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). (2014). *Emerging Issues for Small Island Developing States: results of the UNEP Foresight Process*. Nairobi, Kenya UNEP.

¹⁰⁴ United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). (2012). *The Future We Want*. (A/RES/66/288).

Capacity building efforts and financial support for SIDS and least developed countries (LDCs) will largely result from multilateral and bilateral agreements between national governments. However, there is potential for ocean business community involvement with ocean use agreements, such as fisheries partnership agreements.¹⁰⁵ These ocean use agreements would “ensure that benefits derived from the sustainable use of resources in the EEZs of SIDS and developing coastal countries accrue to them.”¹⁰⁶

Sectors Impacted: Business Support and Professional Services, Renewable Living Resources, Tourism and Recreation

14.a / Increase Scientific Knowledge

Scientific knowledge underpins many ocean policies. As these policies establish rules and regulations for ocean industries, it is in the interest of the ocean business community to ensure that the best scientific information available is used for policy decisions. In general, “ocean industries also have a huge potential to collect oceanographic and atmospheric data that contribute to better modeling and predicting ocean conditions, extreme weather events and climate change that impact economies and livelihoods.”¹⁰⁷

Efforts to improve scientific knowledge and develop research capacity build upon preexisting commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Criteria and Guidelines on The Transfer of Marine Technology.¹⁰⁸

Sectors Impacted: Business Support and Professional Services, Energy and Mining, Marine Construction and Facilities, Marine Technology, Marine Transportation, Renewable Living Resources, Tourism and Recreation

14.b / Provide Access to Small-scale Fishers

Small-scale fishers are incredibly important for achieving food security and poverty alleviation.¹⁰⁹ They account for “about 90% of the worlds 39.4 million capture fishers...[and] produce half of all global fish catches” for human consumption.¹¹⁰ In general, small-scale fishers suffer from

¹⁰⁵ *Rio Ocean Declaration*. (2012), *supra* note 81

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁷ IOC/UNESCO et al. (2011), *supra* note 7

¹⁰⁸ Global Ocean Forum. (2014), *supra* note 50

¹⁰⁹ Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO). (2014). Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. Rome, FAO (COFI/2014/Inf.10).

¹¹⁰ Franz, N. (2014). FAO Adopts Small Scale Fisheries Guidelines. Global Partnership for Oceans.
<http://www.globalpartnershipforoceans.org/fao-adopts-small-scale-fisheries-guidelines>

marginalization and unequal power relations.¹¹¹ Furthermore, they are often characterized by remote location, disadvantaged access to markets, and lack of alternative livelihoods.¹¹² “In many places... there is increasingly high interdependence or competition between small-scale fisheries and other sectors. These other sectors can often have stronger political or economic influence.”¹¹³

Similar to the broader Renewable Living Resources sector, small-scale fishers are highly dependent on healthy marine ecosystems and resources. This reliance on healthy marine ecosystems is fundamental to small-scale fishers’ livelihoods and capacity to contribute to human-wellbeing.¹¹⁴

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) recently released a report on international guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries. These voluntary guidelines are designed to promote the contribution of small-scale fishers to equitable development and provide guidance for improving fisheries governance.¹¹⁵

Sectors Impacted: Business Support and Professional Services, Renewable Living Resources

14.c / Ensure the Full Implementation of International Law

While there are many international treaties that pertain to oceans and marine resources, this means of implementation focuses specifically on the application of international law as reflected in UNCLOS.¹¹⁶ UNCLOS is the globally agreed treaty for ocean governance. Ensuring the full implementation of international law is in the interest of the ocean business community as it creates a level playing field for all nations and the global ocean business community. It is far easier to comply with a universal set of regulations than a patchwork of different national standards.

The responsibility to ensure the full implementation of international law lies with national governments.

Sectors Impacted: All

¹¹¹ FAO. (2014), *supra* note 109

¹¹² *Ibid.*

¹¹³ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁶ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

Suggested Strategic Actions for the Ocean SDG

Included below is a list of suggested strategic actions for the Ocean SDG. These strategic actions are the result of a literature review of the post-2015 development agenda and the MDGs. They are adapted from frameworks for business engagement with the MDGs, reports assessing the role of business in the post-2015 development agenda, as well as suggestions based on personal knowledge of ocean policy.^{117, 118} It is worth noting that these suggestions are not intended to be all encompassing, but rather are intended to serve as examples should the ocean business community elect to engage with the Ocean SDG.

¹¹⁷ Nelson, J., & Prescott, D. (2008), *supra* note 4

¹¹⁸ Lucci, P. (2012), *supra* note 5

Table 7: Strategic Actions for the Ocean SDG^{119, 120}

Strategic Actions for the Ocean SDG		
Target	Target Description	Suggested Strategic Actions for the Ocean Business Community
14.1	Prevent Marine Pollution	Engage in global dialogue on marine pollution; assess compliance with existing frameworks such as MARPOL; Engage in efforts to address emerging pollution concerns such as ocean noise; Participate in the World Ocean Council (WOC) Marine Sound Working Group
		Understand and manage direct environmental impacts
		Support international environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and campaigns; such as the Declaration of the Global Plastics Associations for Solutions on Marine Litter; Nets to Energy; and the International Ocean Noise Coalition
		Support technology development and transfer; specifically the development of clean technologies that reduce pollution
		Spread responsible international business standards and practices
14.2	Sustainably Manage and Protect Marine Ecosystems	Understand and manage direct environmental impacts; through practices such as natural capital accounting, supply chain management, and greenhouse gas reporting
		Support international environmental NGOs and campaigns; such as the OHI and fisheries performance indicators
		Support coastal restoration efforts
14.3	Minimize Ocean Acidification	Engage in global dialogue on climate change; specifically United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
		Invest in product and process innovation
		Support the collection of scientific information
14.4	Effectively Regulate IUU Fishing	Engage in international and regional dialogues related to fisheries management; assess compliance with existing frameworks such as Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and the UN Straddling Stocks Agreement
		Support technology development and transfer; such as vessel monitoring systems and other technologies that reduce IUU fishing practices
		Support efforts to strengthen government and institutional capacity
14.5	Conserve 10% of Marine and Coastal Areas	Engage in discussions related to the creation of MPAs
		Encourage and facilitate cross-sector dialogues
14.6	Prohibit Fisheries Subsidies that Contribute to IUU Fishing	Engage in dialogues pertaining to fisheries subsidies
14.7	Increase the Economic Benefits to SIDS	Support technology development and transfer to SIDS and LDCs
		Support efforts to strengthen government and institutional capacity
14.a	Increase Scientific Knowledge	Support technology development and transfer
		Contribute to the collection of scientific data
14.b	Provide Access to Small-scale Fishers	Adopt voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries
14.c	Ensure the Full Implementation of international Law	Advocate for full international participation in UNCLOS

¹¹⁹ Nelson, J., & Prescott, D. (2008), *supra* note 4

¹²⁰ Lucci, Paula. (2012), *supra* note 5

Analysis of Other Relevant Goals

Goal 1: End poverty

Poverty is a crosscutting issue with numerous implications for sustainable development. In the context of oceans, the goal to “End poverty in all of its forms everywhere” is important as “oceans provide multiple opportunities for addressing poverty, through a range of economic sectors.”¹²¹ For example, activities associated with fisheries, aquaculture, and offshore energy provide opportunities for income generation either through direct employment or the indirect contribution to other sectors.¹²²

Target 1.5 is particularly relevant to oceans as it relates to reducing climate-change associated vulnerabilities for the most susceptible populations. A number of factors such as stronger hurricanes/typhoons/cyclones, sea level rise, and ocean acidification affect communities in coastal and island nations.¹²³

From a business standpoint, “business does better when the world does better.”¹²⁴ Thus, international efforts to alleviate poverty directly affect businesses as poverty alleviation efforts address factors that undermine a suitable business environment such as disease, strife, environmental degradation, illiteracy, and corrupt government practices.¹²⁵ Moreover, issues associated with poverty are increasingly interlinked with other issues of international concern such as peace and security.¹²⁶

Sectors Impacted: All

Goal 2: Achieve Food Security

Food security refers to enabling “access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life.”¹²⁷ With over 4.2 billion people receiving 15% of their protein intake from fish and fishery products, the world’s oceans have profound implications for food security and nutrition.¹²⁸

¹²¹ IOC/UNESCO et al. (2011), *supra* note 7

¹²² *Ibid.*

¹²³ Global Ocean Forum. (2014), *supra* note 50

¹²⁴ United Nations Global Compact. (2013), *supra* note 36

¹²⁵ *Ibid.*

¹²⁶ Nelson, J., & Prescott, D. (2008), *supra* note 4

¹²⁷ World Health Organization. Food Security. <http://www.who.int/trade/glossary/story028/en/>

¹²⁸ IOC/UNESCO et al. (2011), *supra* note 7

Target 2.3 relates to doubling the incomes of small-scale food producers, including fishers and aquaculture, through equal access to resources and knowledge.¹²⁹

Sectors Impacted: Renewable Living Resources

Goal 6: Ensure Water and Sanitation for All

Aquatic ecosystems such as wetlands, rivers, aquifers, and lakes are linked to the ocean. Thus, efforts to reduce pollution and restore these ecosystems are of direct relevance to oceans as they have consequences for ocean health. Targets 6.3, 6.5, and 6.6 are most applicable to oceans as they relate to improving water quality by reducing pollution, implementing integrated water resources management, and protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems.¹³⁰

Economic sectors that depend on healthy ocean ecosystems and the living resources they support are most affected by this SDG.

Sectors Impacted: Marine Construction and Facilities, Renewable Living Resources, Tourism and Recreation

Goal 7: Ensure Access to Energy

Oceans have immense potential for supplying energy. Energy can be generated from offshore oil and gas deposits, offshore wind, tidal, ocean currents, waves, and thermal gradients. Applicable targets from this goal include Target 7.2, which relates to increasing the contribution of renewable energy to the overall global energy supply, and Target 7.a, which relates to promoting “clean energy research including renewable energy...and energy efficiency.”¹³¹

This goal is particularly relevant to the Energy and Mining Sector.

Sectors Impacted: Energy and Mining

Goal 8: Promote Sustainable Economic Growth

Sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth is of direct interest to ocean businesses, particularly in the context of a Blue Economy. In order to enable sustainable economic growth governments must promote domestic markets and capital formation, invest in infrastructure, and encourage international trade.¹³²

¹²⁹ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

¹³⁰ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

¹³¹ *Ibid.*

¹³² ICC, *supra* note 65

Relevant targets include Target 8.4, which promotes “global resource efficiency in consumption and production” and “[decoupling] economic growth from environmental degradation,” and Target 8.9, which relates to policies that promote sustainable tourism.¹³³

Sectors Impacted: All, Tourism and Recreation is specifically addressed

Goal 9: Build Resilient Infrastructure

Resilient Infrastructure, such as roads and a reliable electricity supply, is required for businesses to operate effectively.¹³⁴

This goal is particularly relevant to all ocean industry sectors, as they rely on ports and coastal infrastructure. Target 9.1, which encourages the development of quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, is of particular interest to the ocean business community.¹³⁵

Sectors Impacted: All

Goal 10: Reduce Inequality Among Countries

Inequality within and among countries poses a significant challenge to poverty alleviation and sustainable development. This goal addresses country’s varying capacity to address sustainable development concerns, such as the sustainable development of coastal and ocean resources.

Target 10.6 relates to representation of developing countries in decision-making processes to allow for more effective, accountable, and legitimate institutions.¹³⁶

Sectors Impacted: All

Goal 11: Make Cities Sustainable

With more than a third of the world’s population living within 100 kilometers of the coast, making human settlements resilient and sustainable is directly applicable to oceans.¹³⁷ Moreover, as all industry sectors depend on ports and coastal infrastructure, this goal is also applicable to the ocean business community.

¹³³ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

¹³⁴ Business and Industry Major Group. (2014). The Business and Industry’s vision and priorities for the Sustainable Development Goals.(Major Group Position Paper)

¹³⁵ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

¹³⁶ *Ibid.*

¹³⁷ IOC/UNESCO et al. (2011), *supra* note 7

Target 11.5 relates to reducing the number of people affected by water-related disasters.¹³⁸ This is particularly important for ocean industries that are located or operating in vulnerable coastal or island communities.¹³⁹

Sectors Impacted: All

Goal 12: Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production

Efforts to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns are of direct relevance to the ocean business community. In order to ensure long-term economic prosperity, natural resources must be managed efficiently.¹⁴⁰

Targets 12.2, 12.4, and 12.6 are particularly relevant for ocean industries. These targets respectively deal with the “sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources,” the “environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes,” and the “adoption of sustainable practices and integrating sustainability into [a company’s] reporting cycle.”¹⁴¹

Sectors Impacted: All

Goal 13: Combat Climate Change

Climate Change and its associated effects pose an enormous threat to maintaining healthy and resilient ocean ecosystems. With effects ranging from elevated sea-surface temperatures and ocean acidification to sea level rise and increased severity of natural disasters, climate change is projected to have a significant impact on both marine ecosystem services and coastal areas. These effects not only have implications for marine biodiversity, but also have far-reaching consequences for coastal livelihoods and infrastructure.

All targets are relevant to ocean management.

Sectors Impacted: All

Goal 15: Protect Terrestrial Ecosystems

While the focus of Goal 15 is protecting terrestrial ecosystems, this goal does include targets that are relevant to both ocean management and the ocean business community.

¹³⁸ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

¹³⁹ Global Ocean Forum. (2014), *supra* note 50

¹⁴⁰ Business and Industry Major Group. (2014), *supra* note 134

¹⁴¹ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

For instance, Target 15.1 addresses the restoration of terrestrial ecosystems such as wetlands.¹⁴² As ecosystems are interlinked the health of terrestrial ecosystems does have implications for ocean health.¹⁴³ Other targets under Goal 15 that are applicable to oceans include Target 15.6, which addresses the “fair and equitable sharing of benefits from... genetic resources,” and Target 15.8, which addresses efforts to reduce the impact of invasive alien species.¹⁴⁴ Despite being included under Goal 15, which focuses on protecting terrestrial ecosystems, Target 15.8 is relevant to ocean management as it specifically mentions “[preventing} the introduction and significantly [reducing] the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems.”¹⁴⁵

Sectors Impacted: Marine Construction and Facilities, Renewable Living Resources, Tourism and Recreation

Goal 16: Promote Peaceful Societies

Factors such as peace and stability, the rule of law, good governance, and the absence of corruption reflected in Goal 16 are all vital to the ocean business community as they enable an operating environment conducive for businesses.¹⁴⁶ For instance, a stable macroeconomic and regulatory environment allows companies to be aware of the regulations they must comply with while the rule of law ensures efficient law enforcement systems contributing to the protection of property rights.¹⁴⁷ Other factors that are important for an enabling environment covered by Goal 16 include accountable and transparent government practices, absence of corruption, and participatory decision-making.¹⁴⁸

Sectors Impacted: All

Goal 17: Strengthen Means of Implementation

Goal 17 focuses on general means of implementation for the SDGs. It focuses on several categories of actions such as “finance, technology, capacity building, trade, systemic issues, multi-stakeholder

¹⁴² *Ibid.*

¹⁴³ Global Ocean Forum. (2014), *supra* note 50

¹⁴⁴ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

¹⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁶ Kantrow, L. (2014). Post Rio+20: Where Do We Stand 21 Months Later? [Power Point Slides]. <http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=0CCUQFjAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww2.nycbar.org%2Fpdf%2Fevents%2Fnyc-bar-presentation-post-rio-april2014-l.-kantrow.ppt&ei=wGSDVNX3BoGogwT-oINQ&usg=AFQjCNFs4eaVo-ig-AgM4ej2iQGgeV4EIA&sig2=b-MoThhsyZO6ycBLtsA2DQ&bvm=bv.80642063,d.eXY>

¹⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁸ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

partnerships, and data, monitoring and accountability.”¹⁴⁹ These means of implementation are important to the ocean business community as they help improve policy coherence and consistent application.

Important targets include Targets 17.3, 17.6, 17.9, and 17.16. These targets relate to mobilizing financial resources for developing countries, improving knowledge and technology sharing, facilitating capacity building for sustainable development, and enhancing multi-stakeholder partnerships.¹⁵⁰

Sectors Impacted: All

Strategic Actions for Other Relevant SDGs

As before these strategic actions for the other relevant SDGs are adapted from frameworks for business engagement with the MDGs, reports assessing the role of business in the post-2015 development agenda, as well as suggestions based on personal knowledge of ocean policy.^{151, 152} It is worth noting that these suggestions are not intended to be all encompassing, but rather are intended to serve as examples should the ocean business community elect to engage with the other relevant SDGs.

¹⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁵¹ Nelson, J., & Prescott, D. (2008), *supra* note 4

¹⁵² Lucci, Paula. (2012), *supra* note 5

Table 8: Strategic Actions for Other Relevant SDGs^{153, 154}

Strategic Actions for Other Relevant SDGs		
Goal	Goal Description	Suggested Strategic Actions for the Ocean Business Community
1	<i>End Poverty</i>	Establish institutional and physical infrastructure
		Provide access to affordable goods and services
		Provide access to economic opportunity and income generating activities
		Support efforts to improve government capacity and the domestic private sector
2	<i>Achieve Food Security</i>	Support technology development and information transfer
		Spread responsible business standards and practices
6	<i>Ensure Water and Sanitation for All</i>	Understand and manage direct environmental impacts
		Support international NGO and environmental campaigns
		Support habitat restoration efforts
7	<i>Ensure Access to Energy</i>	Support technology development and transfer
		Spread responsible international business standards and practices
		Invest in product and process innovation
8	<i>Promote Sustainable Economic Growth</i>	Support government efforts to achieve a sound enabling environment for businesses
		Invest in product and process innovation
		Spread responsible business practices
		Support technology development and transfer
		Establish physical and institutional infrastructure
		Support education
9	<i>Build Resilient Infrastructure</i>	Establish physical and institutional infrastructure
10	<i>Reduce Inequality Among countries</i>	Support efforts to improve government capacity
11	<i>Make Cities Sustainable</i>	Establish physical and institutional infrastructure
		Support technology development and transfer
12	<i>Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production</i>	Address the challenge of sustainable consumption and production
		Understand and manage environmental impacts
13	<i>Combat Climate Change</i>	Engage in global dialogue on climate change; specifically the UNFCCC
		Support the collection of scientific information
		Spread responsible business standards and practices
		Support technology development and transfer
		Invest in product and process innovation
15	<i>Protect Terrestrial Ecosystems</i>	Support habitat restoration efforts
		Support technology development and transfer
		Understand and manage environmental impacts
16	<i>Promote Peaceful Societies</i>	Support government efforts to achieve a sound enabling environment
17	<i>Strengthen Means of Implementation</i>	Support efforts to strengthen government and institutional capacity
		Support technology development and transfer
		Spread responsible international business standards and practices
		Encourage and gather scientific data

¹⁵³ Nelson, J., & Prescott, D. (2008), *supra* note 4

¹⁵⁴ Lucci, P. (2012), *supra* note 5

Results and Observations

Analysis of Ocean Industries Impacted by the SDGs

While by nature the activities associated with ocean industries pertain to the marine environment, the Ocean SDG does not affect all ocean industries equally (*Figure 2*). One of the industry sectors most affected by the Ocean SDG targets is the Renewable Living Resources sector. Unlike, other members of the ocean business community, the Renewable Living Resources sector is impacted by all 10 Ocean SDG targets and means of implementation. Other sectors impacted by multiple Ocean SDG objectives include the Business Support and Professional Services sector and the Tourism and Recreation sector. Following these two sectors, the Energy and Mining sector, the Marine Construction and Facilities sector, and the Marine Transportation sector are the next ocean business community sectors most affected by the Ocean SDG. These three sectors are each affected by 5 of the 10 Ocean SDG provisions.

In contrast, less than half of the Ocean SDG targets and means of implementation affect the Ship and Boat Building sector and the Marine Technology sector.

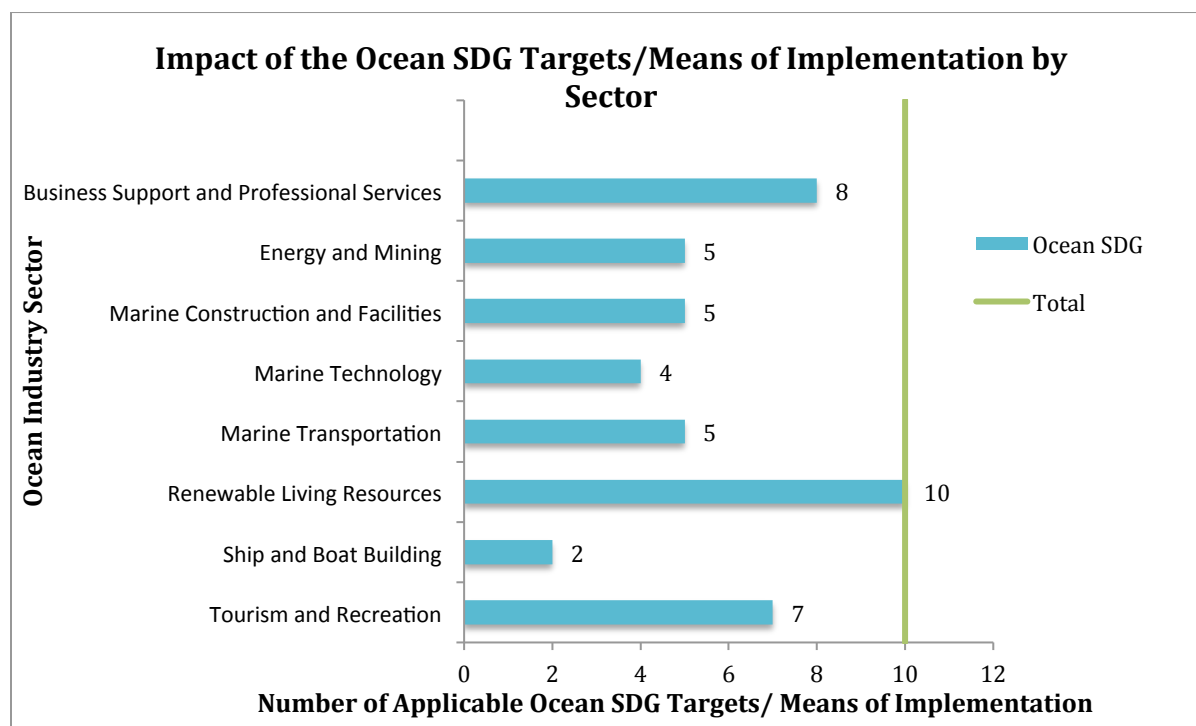


Figure 2 shows the number of Ocean SDG targets/means of implementation that are applicable to each ocean business community sector. The vertical line indicates the total number of Ocean SDG targets/means of implementation.

In general, ocean industry sectors appear to be more equally affected by the other relevant SDGs than the Ocean SDG (*Figure 3*). This may be the result of the fact that many of the other relevant SDGs contain provisions related to an enabling environment for businesses that are more applicable to a range of sectors than the Ocean SDG targets/means of implementation that pertain to specific aspects of ocean management and thus affect specific industry activities. Even though overall, the ocean business community appears to be more evenly affected by the other relevant SDGs, similar to the Ocean SDG the Renewable Living Resources sector appears to be the most affected.

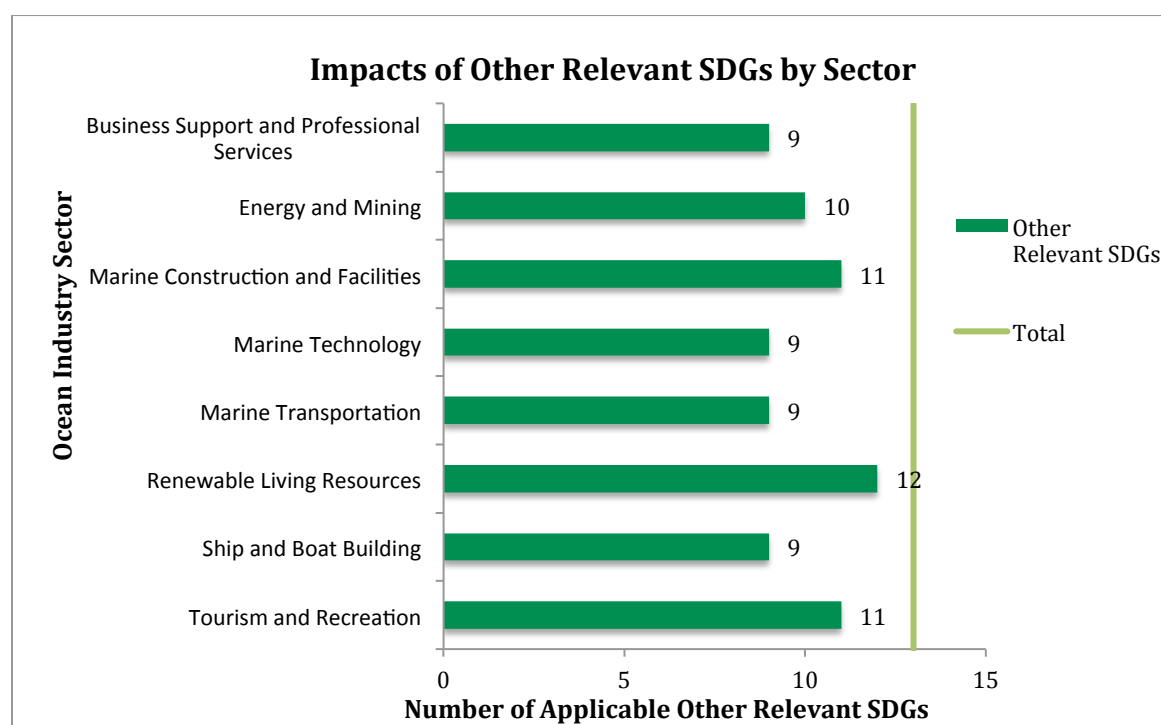


Figure 3 shows the number of other relevant SDGs that applicable to each ocean business community sector. The vertical line indicates the total number of other relevant SDGs analyzed (13).

From the analysis of the Ocean SDG and other relevant SDGs, it is clear that some members of the ocean business community are more affected by the SDGs than others (*Figure 4*). Among the ocean industries most affected by these global goals, is the Renewable Living Resources sector. This sector, which includes businesses related to aquaculture, commercial fishing, pharmaceuticals/ biotechnology, and seafood processors, is impacted by all of the Ocean SDG targets/means of implementation and 12 of the 13 other relevant SDGs included in this analysis.

Other sectors that are impacted by multiple Ocean SDG targets and other relevant SDGs include the Business Support and Professional Services sector, the Marine Construction and Facilities sector,

and the Tourism and Recreation sector. Additionally, it is apparent that some sectors such as the Energy and Mining sector and the Marine Construction and Facilities sector are more affected by the other relevant SDGs than the Ocean SDG targets.

Overall, the Ship and Boat Building sector appears to be the least affected by the SDGs.

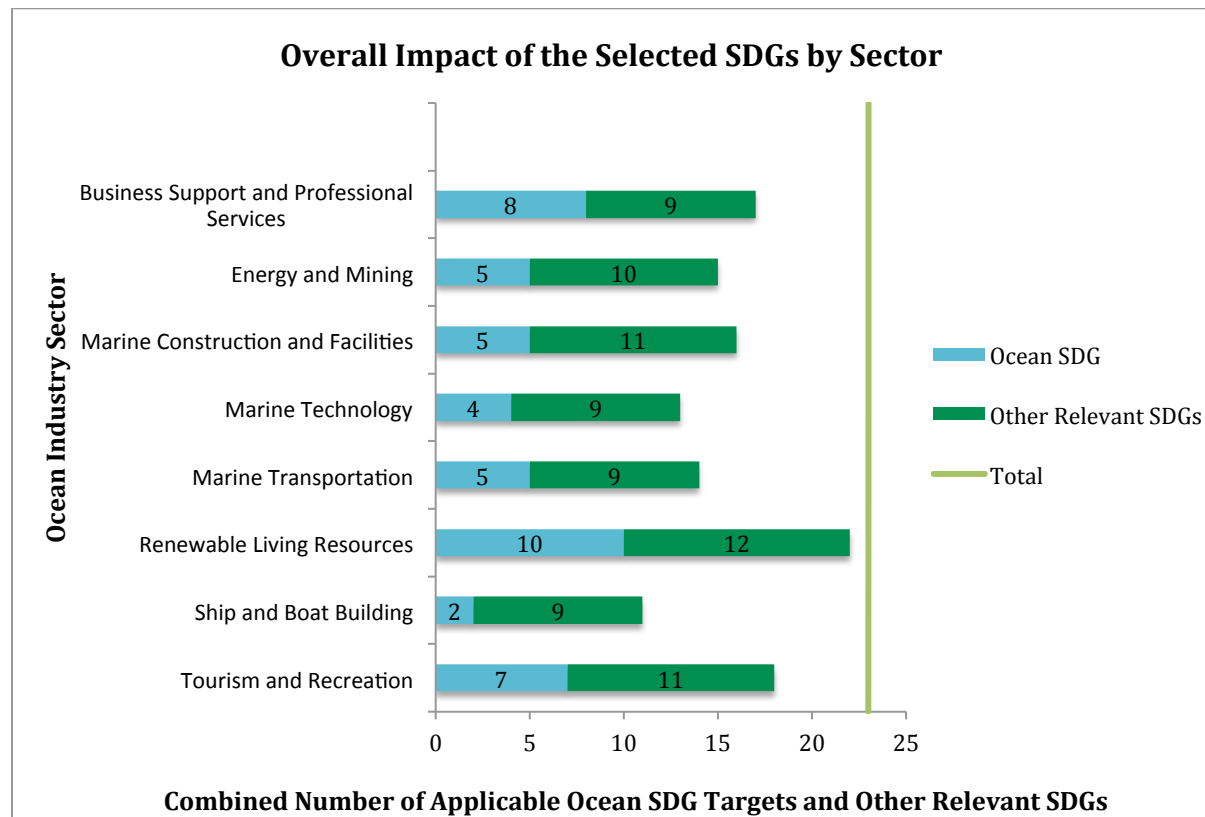


Figure 4 shows the combined number of Ocean SDG targets/means of implementation and other relevant SDGs that are applicable to each ocean business community sector. The vertical line indicates the total number of Ocean SDG targets/means of implementation and other relevant SDGs included in the analysis (23).

Discussion

Implications of the SDGs for Ocean Industries

Given that the ocean business community is not equally affected by the SDGs, there is a wide range of implications for the ocean business community.

For ocean industry sectors that are addressed by multiple SDGs, understanding how the SDGs may affect marine management and ocean related economic activities is important to realizing both the *operational risks* and *opportunities* associated with this policy development. While the SDGs in and of themselves are not legally binding, to achieve these aspirational goals national governments will have to initiate or revise policies and programs. Thus, some sectors, such as the Renewable Living Resources sector, the Tourism and Recreation sector, and the Marine Construction and Facilities sector, are more likely to face the development of binding regulations as the international community works toward achieving the SDGs. These sectors are more likely to experience changes in government policies as many of the SDGs that affect these sectors propose regulation or management changes that would impact the activities associated with these sectors. For instance, Target 14.6 advocates for the elimination of subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing, Target 14.2 encourages countries to take action to restore and achieve healthy oceans, and Goal 6 includes provisions that urge countries to reduce pollution in aquatic ecosystems.¹⁵⁵ Since the SDGs are designed to be universal in nature, these expected changes in government policies are applicable to ocean industry sectors operating in both developed and developing countries.

In addition to expected changes in government policies, the SDGs will likely encourage the development of NGO campaigns and other voluntary initiatives. These initiatives present a potential opportunity for the ocean business community to address concerns related to corporate social responsibility and business reputation. While not all ocean business community sectors will be directly affected by changes in government policy or voluntary initiatives, since other sectors, such as the Business Support and Professional Services sector, support various ocean industry activities that are affected by the SDGs there are consequences for these industries should they opt not to address these goals.

As the SDGs will dictate international and national development policy, albeit voluntary, for the next fifteen years, there are long-term consequences of not engaging with the SDGs. These long-

¹⁵⁵ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

term consequences of not engaging with the SDGs relate primarily to lost opportunities such as lost partnership opportunities, forfeited opportunities to contribute to the right regulatory environment (one that is based on transparent government practices and efficient law enforcement systems), and lost opportunities to reform regulations that pose an obstacle to both development and new business opportunities.¹⁵⁶

Non-engagement poses significant risks for sectors, such as the Renewable Living Resource sector, the Tourism and Recreation sector, and the Marine Construction and Facilities that are directly affected by many of the proposed SDGs. In addition, due to the extractive nature of their activities, the Energy and Mining sector faces higher reputation risks than other ocean industries if it does not engage with the SDGs.

Moving Forward: Oceans and Sustainable Development

The emphasis on oceans and sustainable development is something that has increasingly received international attention in recent years. The elevation of ocean issues as a priority area at the Rio+20 conference, the theme of the Sixteenth meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea: “Oceans and sustainable development; integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, environmental, social, and economic,” and the retention of the stand-alone Ocean SDG attest to the international community’s commitment to both oceans and sustainable development.^{157, 158} As such smart companies will pay attention to the policy, planning, and operational implications of policy developments, such as the SDGs, that address issues related to both oceans and sustainable development.¹⁵⁹

What is next for the SDGs

As a part of the ongoing post-2015 intergovernmental negotiations, the international community has initiated negotiations for the indicators that will be used to measure country’s progress toward achieving SDG targets and means of implementation. These indicators will not only assess progress toward achieving the objectives set out by the SDGs, but will also add clarification and support to SDG targets and means of implementation. A preliminary list of potential indicators for the SDGs

¹⁵⁶ Kantrow, L. (2014), *supra* note 146

¹⁵⁷ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). (2011). 7 Critical Issues at Rio+20. <http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?menu=123#oceans>

¹⁵⁸ United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS). (2015). Advance and unedited reporting material on the topic of focus of the sixteenth meeting of the informal consultative process. (A/70/50). http://www.un.org/depts/los/consultative_process/documents/ICP-16_report.pdf

¹⁵⁹ Holthus, P.F. (2015). The Economic Dimension of Ocean Sustainable Development [Power Point Slides]. http://www.un.org/depts/los/consultative_process/icp16_presentations/Holthus.pdf

was released by the Bureau of the United Nations Statistical Commission (*Table 9*) at the most recent post-2015 process meeting in New York March 23-27 2015. Other organizations, such as the Global Ocean Commission, have also compiled suggestions for SDG indicators.¹⁶⁰

The official SDGs will be announced at a UN General Assembly Summit September 25th-27th 2015.

Table 9: List of Proposed Indicators for the Ocean SDG¹⁶¹*

Proposed Indicators for the Ocean SDG			
Target	Target Description	Proposed Indicator	Proposed Indicator Description
14.1	Prevent Marine Pollution	14.1.1	"Fertilizer consumption (kg/ha of arable land)"
		14.1.2	"Metric tonnes per year of plastic materials entering the ocean from all sources"
14.2	Sustainably Manage and Protect Marine Ecosystems	14.2.1	"Percentage of coastline with formulated and adopted ICM/MSP plans"
		14.2.2	"Ocean Health Index"
14.3	Minimize Ocean Acidification	14.3.1	"Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations"
		14.3.2	"Coral coverage"
14.4	Effectively Regulate IUU Fishing	14.4.1	"Fish species, threatened"
		14.4.2	"Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable limits"
14.5	Conserve 10% of Marine and Coastal Areas	14.5.1	"Percentage area of each country's EEZ in MPA percentage area of ABNJ in MPA percentage area of global ocean under MPA"
		14.5.2	"Coverage of protected areas"
14.6	Prohibit Fisheries Subsidies that Contribute to IUU fishing	14.6.1	"Dollar value of negative fishery subsidies against 2015 baseline"
		14.6.2	"Legal framework or tax/trade mechanisms prohibiting certain forms of fisheries subsidies"
14.7	Increase the Economic Benefits to SIDS	14.7.1	"Fisheries as a % of GDP"
		14.7.2	"Level of revenue generated from sustainable use of marine resources"
14.a	Increase Scientific Knowledge	14.a.1	"Number of researchers working in this area"
		14.a.2	"Budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology"
14.b	Provide Access to Small-scale Fishers	14.b.1	"By 2030, X% of small scale fisheries certified as sustainable; Y% increase in market access for small scale fisheries"
		14.b.2	"By 2030, increase by X% the proportion of global fish catch from sustainably managed small scale fisheries"
14.c	Ensure the Full Implementation of International Law	14.c.1	"Adoption of a legal framework and number of associated court cases"
		14.c.2	"Number of countries implementing either legally or programmatically the provisions set out in regional seas protocols"

**These are the indicators proposed in the [UNSC technical report](#). As the indicators are still being negotiated these proposed indicators for the Ocean SDG will likely change as the intergovernmental negotiations progress.*

¹⁶⁰ Global Ocean Commission. (2015). Proposed Elements of Indicators for SDG Goal 14 – Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources. http://www.globaloceancommission.org/wp-content/uploads/GOC_Post2015_Ocean-indicators_final.pdf

¹⁶¹ Bureau of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC). (2015). Technical report by the Bureau of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) on the process of the development of an indicator framework for the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda. (Working Draft). [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/6754Technical%20report%20of%20the%20UNSC%20Bureau%20\(final\).pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/6754Technical%20report%20of%20the%20UNSC%20Bureau%20(final).pdf)

Recommendations for the World Ocean Council

The World Ocean Council (WOC) is one of the few organizations that facilitates cross-sector collaboration within the ocean business community, and is unprecedented in its efforts to support healthy oceans, responsible use, and stewardship by ocean industries.¹⁶² As a leader in “Corporate Ocean Responsibility,” the WOC has both the incentive and the responsibility to support ocean industry involvement with the SDGs.¹⁶³ While the involvement of the ocean business community alone is not enough to ensure healthy marine ecosystems, as one of the principal users of the marine environment, ocean industry engagement is integral to ocean governance and efforts to secure ocean health.¹⁶⁴

As part of the WOC’s Business Forum on Ocean Policy and Planning held September 28-30 2014, ocean industry representatives discussed elements of creating a roadmap for ocean business community involvement with emerging ocean policy developments, such as the SDGs.

Representatives from the ocean business community and non-ocean business community agreed that this roadmap for ocean industry involvement should focus on three priority areas: *awareness, notification, and education*.¹⁶⁵ These priority areas highlight the ocean business community’s desire to be informed of marine policy developments and their potential implications for industry activities, assistance in prioritizing and identifying which policy developments merit ocean industry involvement, and interest in participating in more cross-sector dialogues.¹⁶⁶ Based on these priority areas and the results of the analysis of the SDGs, the WOC should consider the following recommendations:

- *Publish the UN SDGs White Paper*: The release of the UN SDGs white paper will help the WOC respond to ocean industry requests for information on ongoing policy developments. It would also address the ocean business community’s desire to be informed of the potential risks and opportunities associated with these new policy frameworks.
- *Release a Survey on the SDGs*: Following the publication of the white paper, the WOC should release a survey on the SDGs. A survey would allow the WOC to receive feedback on how ocean industries should be involved with this policy framework and ascertain whether or not the ocean business community believes the SDGs is a global policy process worth

¹⁶² World Ocean Council, *supra* note 8

¹⁶³ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁴ IOC/UNESCO et al. (2011), *supra* note 7

¹⁶⁵ World Ocean Council (WOC). (2014). Report of the World Ocean Council Business Forum on Ocean Policy & Planning. <http://www.oceancouncil.org/site/pdfs/BF%202014%20Report%20Final%20FINAL.pdf>

¹⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

addressing. Potential survey questions could include a range of topics such as determining which risks associated with the SDGs are of greatest concern and evaluating what barriers may exist to integrating the SDGs into business practices. The results of this survey could be used to guide the WOC on how the ocean business community would like to proceed with the SDGs.

- *Continue facilitating cross-sector dialogues:* The WOC should continue facilitating cross-sector dialogues on oceans and sustainable development. Many industry representatives present at the 2014 Business Forum on Ocean Policy and Planning remarked that one of the major successes of the WOC is that it brings together both science and industry.¹⁶⁷ The WOC should continue facilitating these cross-sector discussions on oceans and sustainable development at its Sustainable Ocean Summit (Singapore, 9-11 November 2015). In addition, the WOC may want to consider creating an online forum for sharing best practices and lessons learned as a means of extending cross-sector dialogues beyond conference settings.
- *Establish a Mechanism for Measuring Progress:* The WOC should also establish a mechanism for measuring ocean business community progress toward achieving SDG targets and means of implementation for those companies that chose to participate with this policy development. By measuring the progress made by ocean industries, the WOC not only promotes transparency, but it also celebrates ocean industry successes. The simplest means of measuring progress will likely be the use of the internationally agreed SDG indicators.

¹⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

Roadmap for Ocean Business Community Engagement with the SDGs

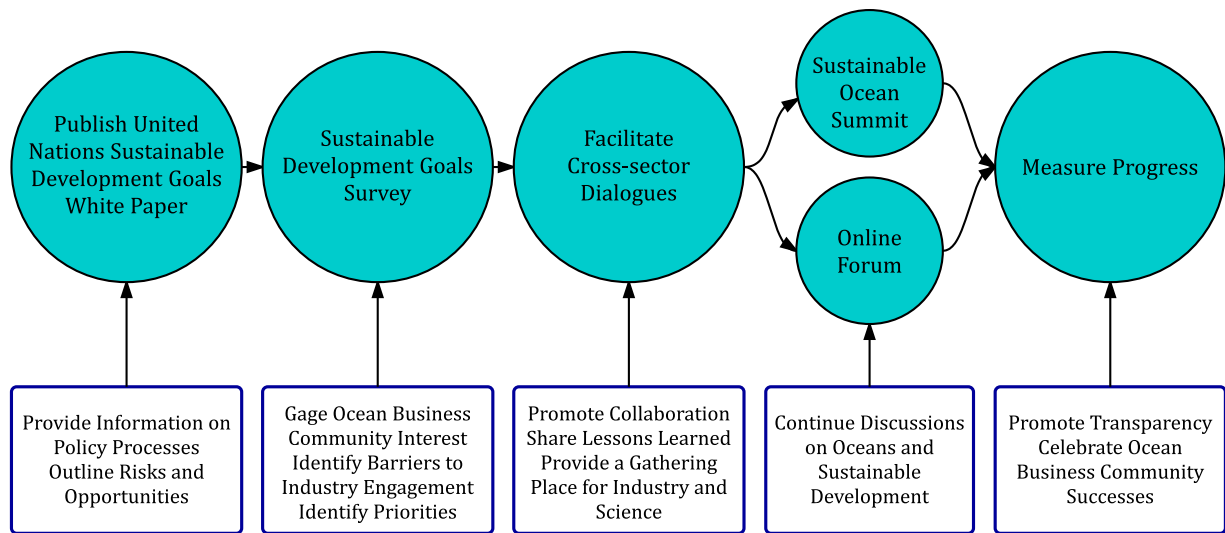


Figure 5 depicts the suggested roadmap for the World Ocean Council regarding ocean business community engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Appendix:

Abbreviations List

ABNJ	Areas beyond national jurisdiction
BBNJ	Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction
CBD	Convention of Biological Diversity
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IUU	Illegal, unregulated, and unreported
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MARPOL	International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MNCs	Multi-national Corporations
MPAs	Marine Protected Areas
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
OHI	Ocean Health Index
OWG	Open Working Group for the SDGs
RFMOs	Regional Fisheries Management Organizations
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDs	Small Island Developing Countries
UN	United Nations
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCSD/Rio+20	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WOC	World Ocean Council
WTO	World Trade Organization

Definitions of Ocean Business Community Sectors*

Business Support and Professional Services: includes relevant industry or business associations, classification societies, consulting firms, finance, insurance/reinsurance, law/ regulatory planning, mapping/geospatial analysis/data Management, marine technology/instrumentation/software/hardware, media and journals (industry or trade), oceanographic and geotechnical surveys, and publications/news (not industry or trade).

Energy and Mining: includes relevant industry or business associations, offshore energy service and supply, offshore renewable-wave and tidal, offshore renewable-wind, oil and gas, onshore power plants and power plant cooling, and seabed mining and minerals extraction.

Marine Construction and Facilities: includes relevant industry or business associations, beach nourishment, cable/pipelines/telecommunications, coastal restoration, desalination construction, dredging, ocean engineering, port development, and shoreline structures and protection.

Marine Technology: includes relevant industry or business associations, instrumentation and electronics, marine pollution abatement, monitoring and research equipment, navigation, and robotics.

Marine Transportation: includes relevant industry or business associations, charting/hydrography, deep sea freight, marine transportation services, passenger ferry, ports and harbors, search and rescue, shipping, and warehousing.

Renewable Living Resources: includes relevant industry or business associations, aquaculture, commercial fishing, data management, desalination production, fishing, charter/party, pharmaceuticals/biotechnology, scientific management, seafood restaurants/food service, seafood retailers, and seafood wholesalers/processors.

Ship and Boat Building: includes relevant industry or business associations, boat building and repair, boat/vessel manufacturer, shipbuilding and repair, brokers and agents, and salvage.

Tourism and Recreation: includes relevant industry or business associations, coastal hotels/resorts, cruise tourism, marinas, marine sports/sporting goods, marine tours/expeditions, recreational/tourist charters, recreational boating equipment, service, supplies, recreational fishing equipment service, supplies, wildlife viewing, and zoos/aquaria.

Non-Ocean Business Community: includes academic, education, research and development associations, consultants, government, lobbyist or government affairs, media, journal, radio, TV etc., native or tribal organizations, private charitable foundations, sustainability and sustainable practices environmental or conservation NGO, and non-business associations.

**These sectors are typical ocean industry categorization used by the World Ocean Council (www.oceancouncil.org)*

Index of Tables & Figures

Tables

Table 1: The SDGs	pg. 10
Table 2: The Ocean SDG	pg. 12
Table 3: World Ocean Council Ocean Business Community Sector Definitions	pg. 18
Table 4: Other Relevant SDGs	pg. 19
Table 5: Sectors Impacted by the Ocean SDG	pg. 25
Table 6: Sectors Impacted by Other Relevant SDGs	pg. 26
Table 7: Strategic Actions for the Ocean SDG	pg. 36
Table 8: Strategic Actions for Other Relevant SDGs	pg. 43
Table 9: List of Proposed Indicators for the Ocean SDG	pg. 49

Figures

Figure 1: Post-2015 Development Agenda Process Diagram	pg. 9
Figure 2: Impact of the Ocean SDG Targets by Sector	pg. 44
Figure 3: Impact of Other Relevant SDGs by Sector	pg. 45
Figure 4: Overall Impact of the Selected SDGs by Sector Graph	pg. 46
Figure 5: Roadmap for Ocean Business Community Engagement with the SDGs	pg. 52

Advanced and Unedited World Ocean Council White Paper*

** This is the advanced and unedited white paper on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals written for the World Ocean Council. The final World Ocean Council white paper will be available at a later date.*

Executive Summary

The United Nations (UN) is in the process of launching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These 17 aspirational goals, which replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), seek to alleviate poverty and promote sustainable development from 2015 to 2030. **This report provides background information on the proposed SDGs and outlines potential issues and opportunities for ocean industry involvement.** Under the proposed SDG Framework, there is a stand-alone goal on oceans.

*Specific Targets of the Ocean SDG include:*¹⁶⁸

- “Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds”
- “Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid adverse impacts”
- “Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification”
- “Conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas”
- Restore fish stocks by “effectively regulating harvest and ending overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing”
- “Prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing”
- “Increase the economic benefits to small-island developing states (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs)”

With an Ocean SDG and several SDGs that address marine related issues, it is important for the ocean business community to understand the opportunities and risks associated with this ongoing global policy process. This report evaluates the opportunities for business associated with the SDGs in the following areas:

1. Ensuring access to sea-space and marine resources
2. Participating in multi-disciplinary dialogues
3. Ensuring a sound business environment
4. Supporting long-term business viability
5. Improving risk management
6. Addressing risks of engagement and non-engagement

The final component of the report is a discussion of the SDGs applicable to the ocean business community. This section includes a brief description of the relevant SDGs and targets and identifies which ocean industry sectors will be most affected. Opportunities for ocean business community

¹⁶⁸ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

involvement have also been included in the analysis of the relevant SDGs under suggested strategic actions.

It is important to recognize that members of the ocean business community are not equally affected by the SDGs. Under the proposed framework for the SDGs the Renewable Living Resources, the Tourism and Recreation, the Marine Construction and Facilities, and the Energy and Mining sectors are among the ocean industries most impacted by the SDG's aspirational goals. As these sectors are impacted by multiple SDGs, as well as the Ocean SDG, they are more likely to experience changes in government policy as a result of the SDGs. While other sectors, such as the Business Support and Professional Services Sector, are less likely to face changes in government regulations, since they support other ocean industries that are impacted by the SDGs, there are consequences for these industries should they opt not to address these global goals.

Ultimately, ocean industry engagement in policy developments that may affect business activities is essential to successful ocean governance.^{169, 170} As the SDGs have the potential to significantly influence the use of marine space and resources, it is in the interest of the ocean business community to develop and implement solutions for responsible ocean use.

Potential courses of action that ocean industries may choose to pursue in order to address this approach include:^{171, 172}

- Understanding and managing direct environmental impacts
- Engaging in global dialogues on climate change, marine pollution, fisheries management, and other topics directly addressed by the SDGs
- Supporting and contributing to the collection of ocean scientific information
- Sharing responsible ocean business standards and practices
- Investing in product and process innovation
- Supporting technology development and transfer
- Advocating for full international participation of all states in United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

¹⁶⁹ Global Ocean Commission. (2014), *supra* note 2

¹⁷⁰ Holthus, P.F. (1999), *supra* note 3

¹⁷¹ Nelson, J., & Prescott, D. (2008), *supra* note 4

¹⁷² Lucci, P. (2012), *supra* note 5

Background on the SDGs

In 2000, the UN announced the creation of the MDGs – a set of eight universal goals for alleviating poverty to be achieved by the year 2015.¹⁷³ While the international community has applauded these eight universal goals as the most comprehensive global attempt to alleviate poverty, the MDGs have been widely criticized by many scholars for only addressing the *symptoms* of poverty and environmental degradation.¹⁷⁴ As the deadline for the MDGs approaches, the international government community has collaborated with civil society to initiate a new series of dialogues for the post-2015 development process. This process is designed to revise, extend, or replace the MDG framework and provide a global agenda for sustainable development starting in 2015.¹⁷⁵

At the UN Conference on Sustainable Development ([Rio+20](#)), the international community called for the creation of SDGs to complement or replace the MDGs. These goals are designed to be “universal in nature, providing guidance for related domestic policies of all UN member states.”¹⁷⁶

Furthermore, nations agreed that the SDGs should be: “action-oriented, concise, easy to communicate, limited in number, and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities, and level of development and respecting national policies and priorities.”¹⁷⁷

To develop this new set of global goals the UN General Assembly established the Open Working Group (OWG) for the SDGs. It consisted of 30 chairs with 70 nations formally represented, and included opportunities for a number of other UN member states, civil society, and interested stakeholders to provide input into the creation of these aspirational goals. In July 2014, the OWG published a report regarding its suggestions for the SDGs. This report, which includes 17 goals and a total of 169 targets, will be used as the basis for final member-state negotiations. The final SDGs will be announced at an UN General Assembly Summit that will be held in September of 2015.

¹⁷³ Benson, E. (2013), *supra* note 23

¹⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁶ Boltz, F. et al. (2013), *supra* note 24

¹⁷⁷ Global Ocean Commission.(2013), *supra* note 30

An Ocean Sustainable Development Goal

Under the proposed SDG Framework, there is an Ocean SDG (Goal 14). The targets (14.1-14.7) and means of implementation (14.a-14.c) included under this goal reflect the urgent need to address ocean issues and recognize that the sustainable use of marine areas, ecosystems, and resources must accommodate a wide range of users, diverse interests, and multiple-governing agencies (*Table 1*).¹⁷⁸ Specific Targets of the Ocean SDG include:¹⁷⁹

- *“Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds”*
- *“Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid adverse impacts”*
- *“Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification”*
- *“Conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas”*
- *Restore fish stocks by “effectively regulating harvest and ending overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing”*
- *“Prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing”*
- *“Increase the economic benefits to small-island developing states (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs)”*

Many of the proposed targets under Goal 14 have implications for the ocean business community (*Table 2*). While national governments are the principle implementing authority for most of these targets, ocean industries, particularly those sectors that rely on healthy marine ecosystems, will be affected by the actions governments take to achieve these goals.

¹⁷⁸ Elliott, M. (2013), *supra* note 32

¹⁷⁹ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

Table 1: The Oceans SDG¹⁸⁰

Goal 14: “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”		
Target	Target Description	Full Target Language
14.1	<i>Prevent Marine Pollution</i>	“By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution”
14.2	<i>Sustainably Manage and Protect Marine Ecosystems</i>	“By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration, to achieve healthy and productive oceans”
14.3	<i>Minimize Ocean Acidification</i>	“Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels”
14.4	<i>Effectively Regulate IUU Fishing</i>	“By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting, and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics”
14.5	<i>Conserve 10% of Marine and Coastal Areas</i>	“By 2020, conserve at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on best available scientific information”
14.6	<i>Prohibit Fisheries Subsidies that Contribute to IUU Fishing</i>	“By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing, and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiation*”
14.7	<i>Increase the Economic Benefits to SIDS</i>	“By 2030 increase the economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism”
14.a	<i>Increase Scientific Knowledge</i>	“Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacities and transfer marine technology taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular SIDS and LDCs”
14.b	<i>Provide Access to Small-scale Fishers</i>	“Provide access of small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets”
14.c	<i>Ensure the Full Implementation of International Law</i>	“Ensure the full implementation of international law, as reflected in UNCLOS for states parties to it, including, where applicable, existing regional and international regimes for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by their parties”

¹⁸⁰ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

Table 2: Sectors* Impacted by the Oceans SDG

Goal 14: "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development"									
Target	Target Description	Business Support and Professional Services	Energy and Mining	Marine Construction and Facilities	Marine Technology	Marine Transportation	Renewable Living Resources	Ship and Boat Building	Tourism and Recreation
14.1	<i>Prevent Marine Pollution</i>								
14.2	<i>Sustainably Manage and Protect Marine Ecosystems</i>								
14.3	<i>Minimize Ocean Acidification</i>								
14.4	<i>Effectively Regulate IUU Fishing</i>								
14.5	<i>Conserve 10% of Marine and Coastal Areas</i>								
14.6	<i>Prohibit Fisheries Subsidies that Contribute to IUU Fishing</i>								
14.7	<i>Increase the Economic Benefits to SIDS</i>								
14.a	<i>Increase Scientific Knowledge</i>								
14.b	<i>Provide Access to Small-scale Fishers</i>								
14.c	<i>Ensure the Full Implementation of International Law</i>								

*These sectors are typical ocean industry categorization used by the World Ocean Council (www.oceancouncil.org). Descriptions of these sectors are available in the appendix of the report.

Other Relevant SDGs

Since many marine issues are crosscutting in nature, other SDGs are relevant to the ocean business community. These goals, which range from “Ending poverty in all of its forms everywhere” to “Taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts,” address issues that are directly linked to healthy ocean ecosystems or a sound business environment, often in a very broad way (*Table 3*).¹⁸¹

While the connection between these other SDGs and the ocean business community is certainly broader than the provisions of the Ocean SDG, these other relevant SDGs contain targets and means of implementation that “can reinforce and add additional dimensions” to the provisions of the Ocean SDG.¹⁸² Understanding how these other relevant SDGs can complement and reinforce Ocean SDG targets and means of implementation is important for the ocean business community as, similar to the Ocean SDG, these other relevant SDGs may contribute to policy developments that affect ocean business community activities (*Table 4*).

Linkages between these other SDGs and the ocean business community along with potential affects of these other SDGs for ocean industries has been included later in this report in the Analysis of Goals Applicable to the Ocean Business Community section.

¹⁸¹ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

¹⁸² Global Ocean Forum. (2014), *supra* note 50

Table 3: SDGs Also Relevant to the Ocean Business Community¹⁸³

Other Relevant SDGs		
Goal	Goal Description	Full Goal Language
1	<i>End Poverty</i>	"End poverty in all of its forms everywhere"
2	<i>Achieve Food Security</i>	"End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture"
6	<i>Ensure Water and Sanitation for All</i>	"Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all"
7	<i>Ensure Access to Energy</i>	"Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all"
8	<i>Promote Sustainable Economic Growth</i>	"Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all"
9	<i>Build Resilient Infrastructure</i>	"Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation"
10	<i>Reduce Inequality Among Countries</i>	"Reduce inequality within and among countries"
11	<i>Make Cities Sustainable</i>	"Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"
12	<i>Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production</i>	"Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns"
13	<i>Combat Climate Change</i>	"Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts"
15	<i>Protect Terrestrial Ecosystems</i>	"Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss"
16	<i>Promote Peaceful Societies</i>	"Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels"
17	<i>Strengthen Means of Implementation</i>	"Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development"

¹⁸³ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

Table 4: Sectors* Impacted by the Other SDGs Also Relevant to the Ocean Business Community

Other Relevant SDGs									
Goal	Goal Description	Business Support and Professional Services	Energy and Mining	Marine Construction and Facilities	Marine Technology	Marine Transportation	Renewable Living Resources	Ship and Boat Building	Tourism and Recreation
1	<i>End Poverty</i>								
2	<i>Achieve Food Security</i>								
6	<i>Ensure Water and Sanitation for All</i>								
7	<i>Ensure Access to Energy</i>								
8	<i>Promote Sustainable Economic Growth</i>								
9	<i>Build Resilient Infrastructure</i>								
10	<i>Reduce Inequality Among Countries</i>								
11	<i>Make Cities Sustainable</i>								
12	<i>Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production</i>								
13	<i>Combat Climate Change</i>								
15	<i>Protect Terrestrial Ecosystems</i>								
16	<i>Promote Peaceful Societies</i>								
17	<i>Strengthen Means of Implementation</i>								

*These sectors are typical ocean industry categorization used by the World Ocean Council (www.oceancouncil.org)

SDGs and the Ocean Business Community

Importance of the SDGs to the Ocean Business Community

With several goals addressing ocean-related issues, the SDGs are an ongoing global policy process with potentially significant effects on ocean industries, and therefore merit ocean business community involvement. Many members of the ocean business community either depend on access to marine space and resources and a healthy ocean environment, or impact the marine environment due to the nature of the products and services they provide.¹⁸⁴

Several scholars and ocean stakeholders assert that one of the primary ways the SDGs may impact ocean governance is through establishing universal standards for ocean management.^{185, 186, 187}

According to some scholars, these universal standards serve as a bridge, linking together existing international policies with ocean related provisions and facilitate consistent state application of existing regulations.^{188, 189} For instance, the targets under Goal 14 emphasize provisions included in UNCLOS, the International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), and the Convention on Biological diversity (CBD) Aichi targets.¹⁹⁰

Furthermore, the potential universal standards associated with the SDGs create a set of measurable objectives that can guide future policy actions, particularly in terms of achieving ocean sustainability.¹⁹¹ For example, the SDGs are one of the first international policy frameworks to address ocean acidification, providing an international objective for an ocean issue that was not apparent when existing marine policy regimes, such as UNCLOS, were negotiated.¹⁹² Additionally, for ocean industries that operate in the high seas, the SDGs are relevant as they are one of two ongoing policy processes that have the potential to affect ocean governance areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ). The other policy process that has the potential to affect ocean governance in ABNJ is the implementing agreement for high seas marine biodiversity (BBNJ) being negotiated under the auspices of UNCLOS.

¹⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁵ Töpfer, K., et al. (2014), *supra* note 52

¹⁸⁶ Visbeck, M. et al. (2014), *supra* note 53

¹⁸⁷ Global Ocean Commission. (2014), *supra* note 2

¹⁸⁸ Druel, E., & Gjerde, K. M. (2014), *supra* note 55

¹⁸⁹ Houghton, K. (2014), *supra* note 56

¹⁹⁰ Global Ocean Forum. (2014), *supra* note 50

¹⁹¹ Töpfer, K. et al. (2014), *supra* note 52

¹⁹² Visbeck, M. et al. (2014a), *supra* note 53

In addition to outlining universal norms for ocean management, the SDGs establish internationally accepted standards for sustainable development. Defined by the Brundtland Commission as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs,” sustainable development is typically conceptualized as being composed of three overlapping pillars: economic, social, and environmental.¹⁹³ These pillars, which form the foundation of sustainable development, emphasize the interconnectivity of seemingly disparate issues. In a globalized society where objectives such as poverty alleviation, economic growth, and environmental degradation are increasingly viewed as interlinked it is important that the ocean business community is aware of issues outside of their sphere of operation.¹⁹⁴ Many problems affecting the marine environment and subsequently the ocean business community are associated with activities that do not occur in the marine environment. For instance, marine pollution can be attributed to improper waste disposal from urban centers, the absence of adequate sanitation infrastructure, as well as air pollution from industrial power plants.

Incentives for Ocean Business Community Involvement with the SDGs

There are a number of incentives or benefits for ocean industry involvement with the SDGs including:

1. Ensuring access to sea-space and marine resources
2. Participating in multi-disciplinary dialogues
3. Ensuring a sound business environment
4. Supporting long-term business viability
5. Improving risk management.

Ensuring access to sea-space and marine resources:

One incentive for ocean industry involvement with the SDGs is ensuring access to sea-space and marine resources. Multiple sectors including Energy and Mining, Marine Transportation, and Renewable Living Resources are reliant upon ocean resources, services, and space.¹⁹⁵

Ocean industry involvement with the SDGs helps ensure that the ocean business community has input into ongoing discussions regarding the responsible use of marine resources and access to marine space. Since the SDGs will be implemented over the course of fifteen years, a place at the table ensures that the opinions and concerns of the ocean business community will be heard. While national governments are ultimately responsible for implementing many of the targets associated

¹⁹³ Brundtland, G. H. (1987), *supra* note 6

¹⁹⁴ Nelson, J., & Prescott, D. (2008), *supra* note 4

¹⁹⁵ Holthus, P.F. (1999), *supra* note 3

with these goals, ocean business community input is important particularly in the context of Target 14.5, which calls for the conservation of at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas by 2020. As marine protected areas (MPAs) regulate the types of activities that are permitted in a given area, ocean industry input is important to ensure that MPA placement is not a hazard to navigation or that activity restrictions do not critically impact business operations without a valid, documented conservation reason.

Participating in multi-disciplinary dialogues

Another incentive for ocean industry involvement with the SDGs is participation in multi-disciplinary dialogues. There is a high degree of conflict and overlapping interests for marine resources and space not only within the ocean business community itself, but also with the non-commercial users of the marine environment.¹⁹⁶

As an interdisciplinary process that addresses all three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social, and environmental), the SDGs by necessity must facilitate collaboration among different stakeholders. These multi-disciplinary dialogues benefit the ocean business community as they not only present opportunities to address how industry activities affect one another and share lessons learned at international conferences and high level summits, but they also provide an opportunity for ocean governance bodies to gain a better understanding of each industry sector. This collaboration leads to the possibility of better solutions and allows for business to share the burden of risk.¹⁹⁷

Ensuring a sound business environment:

The SDGs may be able to contribute to a sound business environment. In order for companies to be competitive, governments must allow for an operating environment that permits the private sector to grow and thrive. Generally, this sound business environment is based on factors such the absence of corruption, accountable and transparent government practices, respect for human rights, peace and stability, and the rule of law.^{198, 199} Under the current proposed framework for the SDGs, several goals such as Goals 9, 11, and 16 address many of the factors that contribute to an overall sound business environment.

¹⁹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁷ Lucci, P. (2012), *supra* note 5

¹⁹⁸ United Nations Global Compact. (2013), *supra* note 36

¹⁹⁹ ICC, *supra* note 65

Supporting long-term business viability:

In addition to a sound business environment, the SDGs offer the ocean business community a chance to improve their long-term viability by addressing calls for increased corporate responsibility. More and more, stakeholders expect companies to manage their societal impacts, such as impacts on the environment and human rights.^{200, 201} Thus, ocean industries face the challenge of finding ways to minimize negative environmental and social externalities, while ensuring that business activities are both profitable and compliant with existing regulations.²⁰²

In order for companies to maximize the long-term benefits offered by the SDGs, companies should consider moving beyond just achieving compliance, and evaluate how the ideals reflected in these goals could be integrated into corporate principles, internal policies, and core business activities.²⁰³ For instance, ocean industries could incorporate the values reflected by the SDGs into their supply chain management to enhance their public image and prepare for changes associated with climate change. Companies such as Unilever, Wal-Mart, and McDonalds have already demonstrated the benefits of aligning business activities with societal interests by forming partnerships with environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop sustainable seafood supply chains.^{204, 205, 206}

Similarly, to improve public trust and credibility the ocean business community could institute public reporting of its progress towards achieving SDGs. Several experts on corporate social responsibility have noted that the use of international standards, such as the targets established by the SDGs, offers the private sector greater credibility for ensuring good social and environmental performance.^{207, 208} Many companies have shown that business partnerships have the potential to build reputation with respected organizations, generate community goodwill, and improve brand position.²⁰⁹

²⁰⁰ United Nations Global Compact. (2013), *supra* note 36

²⁰¹ Spitzer, H. and Martinuzzi, A. (2013), *supra* note 67

²⁰² Nelson, J. (2004), *supra* note 68

²⁰³ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁴ Unilever. (2002), *supra* note 70

²⁰⁵ Walmart, *supra* note 72

²⁰⁶ Ward, T., & Phillips, B. (Eds.). (2009), *supra* note 71

²⁰⁷ Spitzer, H. and Martinuzzi, A. (2013), *supra* note 67

²⁰⁸ Nelson, J. (2004), *supra* note 68

²⁰⁹ Epstein, M.J. (2008), *supra* note 75

Improving risk management:

Another incentive for integrating the SDGs into business operations is enhanced risk management. Factors such as environmental degradation, poverty, and climate change can add directly to the cost of conducting business by affecting operating costs, the costs of raw materials, and creating other non-traditional risks. Moreover, these global issues can impose threats such as short-term and long-term financial risks as well as reputation risks.²¹⁰ Similar to the MDGs, the SDGs may provide ocean industries with improved understanding of these global challenges.²¹¹ By facilitating improved understanding of global issues, the SDGs may help ocean industries make more informed decisions, improving productivity.²¹²

Analysis of Risks: addressing risks of engagement and non-engagement

Members of the ocean business community should consider the tradeoffs involved with engaging with these goals and identify how to operate in a way that is both profitable as well as socially and environmentally responsible.²¹³ These tradeoffs include weighing whether the future costs of addressing societal challenges are greater than current costs as well as comparing the opportunities gained from the SDGs against the risks posed by engagement or non-engagement. Understanding the tradeoffs associated with the SDGs is important for ocean industries as addressing the SDGs may not be appropriate for companies in which the risks posed by the SDGs outweigh the rewards.

There are a variety of risks associated with integrating the SDGs into operational business strategies ranging from financial risks to risks associated with policy compliance. Just as there are risks with engaging with the SDGs there are also risks with non-engagement. These risks will vary based on company size, industry sector, and a company's operational structure.²¹⁴

²¹⁰ Nelson, J., & Prescott, D. (2008), *supra* note 4

²¹¹ *Ibid.*

²¹² *Ibid.*

²¹³ *Ibid.*

²¹⁴ *Ibid.*

Key Questions:

- Do the incentives associated with the SDGs outweigh the risks posed by engagement?
- Does engagement/non-engagement with some SDGs/targets pose a greater risk than others?
- What are the costs and benefits of compliance vs. opting out of the SDGs?
- What actions can ocean industries take to mitigate these risks?
- How do ocean industry's policies and practices address or contribute to these risks?

Risks associated with Engagement

- *Financial Risks:* One of the primary risks associated with integrating the SDGs into business operations are the financial costs associated with implementing changes. These financial risks are typically conceptualized as variable or volatile financial returns as a result of pursuing a given course of action.²¹⁵ As the SDGs are not legally binding, their integration into core business practices will likely result in an expenditure of resources, both financial and other, e.g. time, that is not legally required. The long-term nature of the SDGs is another financial risk factor, as engagement would require the expenditure of resources over an extended time period. Members of the private sector will need to evaluate whether benefits of engaging with the SDGs outweigh these short-term and long-term financial risks.
- *Political/Compliance Risks:* Political and compliance risks relate to risks posed by changes in government, government policy, and laws and regulations.²¹⁶ While the SDGs in and of themselves are legally non-binding and do not pose a compliance risk for the ocean business community, to achieve these aspirational goals national governments will have to initiate or revise policies and programs. For example, to achieve MDG 7 (Ensure Environmental Sustainability) countries integrated MDG targets into their national development policies and strategic plans.²¹⁷ Similar to the MDGs, the SDGs will likely encourage the development of new government policies and voluntary initiatives and as a result the ocean business community can expect some risks associated with changes in government policies. As the SDGs are designed to be universal in nature, these expected changes in government policies are applicable to ocean industry sectors operating in both developed and developing countries.

²¹⁵ Stamatis, D.H. (2014). Introduction to risk and failures: tools and methodologies. Boca Raton: Taylor & Francis.

²¹⁶ Business Victoria. Evaluate business risk. State Government of Victoria.

<http://www.business.vic.gov.au/disputes-disasters-and-succession-planning/how-to-manage-risk-in-your-business/types-of-business-risks>

²¹⁷ Samaniego, J., & Bárcena Ibarra, A. (2010). Millennium development goals: advances in environmentally sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- *Sector Specific Risks:* There are several risks with engaging with the SDGs that are sector-specific. For example, the Marine Technology sector and the Ship and Boat Building sector may face higher financial risks if they chose to engage with the SDGs as costs of addressing the SDGs may outweigh the benefits for these two sectors, which in comparison to other ocean industries are less impacted by the SDGs. For other sectors, such as the Marine Construction and Facilities sector, the Renewable Living Resources sector, and the Tourism and Recreation sector, political/compliance risks are a greater concern as these sectors are impacted by multiple SDGs and may be more likely to experience changes in government policy as a result of the SDGs. While other sectors such as the Business Support and Professional Services sector are not directly addressed by the Ocean SDG and are unlikely to face changes in government regulations, since this sector supports various ocean industries that are directly impacted by the SDGs it may be susceptible to financial risks should it chose to engage with the SDGs. Additionally, since the Renewable Living Resources sector is one of the ocean industries most affected by the SDGs, this sector is more likely to experience financial risks as it would have to initiate the most changes.
- *Company Size Risks:* Company size is also a factor when considering vulnerability to risks of engagement. Small and medium sized enterprises are vital to the realization of the SDGs, but face different risks than larger, multinational companies. While smaller companies possess creativity and agility, they lack the resources of larger transnational companies.²¹⁸ In many cases small and medium sized enterprises simply lack the financial resources to comply. Thus, small and medium sized companies involvement with the SDGs will likely be contingent upon support from larger enterprises or national governments.

Risks associated with Non-engagement

- *Reputation Risks:* Reputation risks are risks associated with lost revenue, loss of shareholder value, or increased operating costs that result from damages to a company's reputation or negative publicity.²¹⁹ These adverse affects on a business's reputation are typically associated with factors such as ethics, environmental sustainability, health and safety concerns, and social justice issues as well as policies associated with corporate

²¹⁸ United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Global Compact.(2014). Engaging with the Private Sector in the Post-2015 Agenda: Consolidated Report on 2014 Consultations. UNIDO and UN Global Compact (Series of Dialogues on Means of Implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda).

²¹⁹ Federal Financial Institution Examination Council. Reputation Risk. IT Examination Handbook InfoBase. <http://ithandbook.ffiec.gov/it-booklets/wholesale-payment-systems/wholesale-payment-systems-risk-management/reputation-risk.aspx>

accountability, transparency, and trust.²²⁰ In the context of the SDGs, companies that chose not to integrate the SDGs into their policies and practices may be most at risk from changes in social perception that affect a company's social license to operate.²²¹ For instance, when the general public became aware that tuna-fishing practices resulted in the bycatch of dolphins there was significant public outcry for changes in fishing practices. Tuna companies, such as Star Kist, were forced by public opinion to alter fishing practices and institute a dolphin safe labeling policy.^{222, 223} With growing expectations for companies to manage both social and environmental impacts, companies that do not engage with the SDGs may be at a competitive disadvantage.

- *Financial Risks:* There are also financial risks posed by non-engagement with the SDGs. Failure to achieve SDG targets could result in further environmental degradation or undermine the pillars of business success, such as stable societies, transparent government practices, and open financial markets.²²⁴ The continued existence of these global issues poses numerous financial risks to the ocean business community including increased operating costs, increased costs of raw materials, increased insurance costs, and increased security costs.²²⁵ The failure to achieve the targets set by the SDGs also poses a financial risk to ocean industries as it could result in unstable markets affecting both short and long-term business profitability.²²⁶
- *Political/Compliance Risks:* In terms of political or compliance risks, the risks posed by non-engagement relate to the issue of uncertainty. Companies that opt not to participate in the SDGs will lose out at having a place at the table in ongoing policy discussions. As the SDGs will establish the framework for international and national development policy, albeit voluntary, for the next fifteen years, there are long-term consequences of not engaging with the SDGs. These long-term consequences relate primarily to lost opportunities such as lost partnership opportunities, forfeited opportunities to contribute to the right regulatory environment (one that is based on transparent government practices and efficient law enforcement systems), and lost opportunities to reform regulations that pose an obstacle to

²²⁰ Nelson, J. (2004), *supra* note 68

²²¹ United Nations Global Compact. (2013), *supra* note 36

²²² Epstein, M.J. (2008), *supra* note 75

²²³ Teisl, Mario F., Roe, Brian, and Hicks, Robert L. (2002). Can Eco-labels Tune a Market? Evidence from Dolphin-Safe Labeling. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* 43, 339-359.

²²⁴ Nelson, J., & Prescott, D. (2008), *supra* note 4

²²⁵ *Ibid.*

²²⁶ *Ibid.*

both development and new business opportunities.²²⁷ Additionally, for ocean industry sectors that are more likely to face new regulations as a result of the SDGs (Energy and Mining, Renewable Living Resources, Tourism and Recreation), non-engagement can potentially pose a compliance risk resulting in penalties and fines, legal costs, and associated effects on business reputation.²²⁸ In addition, companies that do not engage with the SDGs will lose the value from sharing burden/costs if the SDGs result in legally binding regulations.

- *Sector Specific Risks:* Industry sectors that are addressed by multiple SDGs may be more susceptible to political/compliance risks. Even though the SDGs are not legally binding, actions that countries take to achieve the SDGs may have consequences for the ocean business community, such as the development of new regulations. While these new regulations may not be established for every SDG, as previously mentioned with the MDGs, national governments will likely initiate regulatory actions for at least some of the SDG targets and means of implementation. Thus, non-engagement poses significant risks for sectors, such as the Renewable Living Resources sector and the Tourism and Recreation sector, that are directly affected by many of the proposed SDGs and could potentially be impacted by multiple policy developments. Moreover, due to the extractive nature of their activities, the Energy and Mining sector faces higher reputation risks than other ocean industries if it does not engage with the SDGs.

²²⁷ Kantrow, L. (2014), *supra* note 146

²²⁸ Epstein M.J.(2008), *supra* note 75

Analysis of Goals Applicable to the Ocean Business Community

Goal 14: “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”

14.1 / Prevent Marine Pollution

Marine pollution is one of the principle drivers of ocean degradation and has profound implications for ocean sustainability. Historically, society has viewed the ocean as vast area capable of absorbing nearly infinite amounts of waste; thus, governments have had little incentive to act to reduce marine pollution.²²⁹ However, with factors such as increased population growth, urbanization, and expansion of pollution-generating activities, the scope of marine pollution has only increased in recent years. Approximately 80% of this pollution is the result of land-based activities.²³⁰ The international community is particularly concerned about marine pollution such as marine debris, nitrogen and phosphorus-based compounds, and persistent organic pollutants.²³¹

While national governments will play a role in establishing regulations for marine pollution, efforts to reduce marine pollution by necessity require ocean business community involvement, as numerous ocean industry activities produce marine pollution. Energy and Mining, Marine Transportation, and Tourism and Recreation are just a few of the industries that not only contribute to the problem, but are also affected by the environmental degradation associated with marine pollution. These impacts associated with marine pollution are of consequence to the ocean business community as they can remove economic opportunities for multiple generations.²³²

A SDG target on marine pollution reaffirms previous international commitments, such as MARPOL and CBD Aichi targets.²³³ It may also encourage the development of additional regulations for marine pollution and spur the creation of new voluntary initiatives. Potential policy and regulatory instruments that were discussed at Rio+20 that could result from this target include the development of regional programs for marine litter/debris, the use of innovative economic measures such as incentives to fisherman to remove marine litter, and the implementation of the

²²⁹ IOC/UNESCO et al. (2011), *supra* note 7

²³⁰ *Ibid.*

²³¹ *Rio Ocean Declaration*. (2012), *supra* note 81

²³² IOC/UNESCO et al. (2011), *supra* note 7

²³³ Global Ocean Forum. (2014), *supra* note 50

Global Program of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.²³⁴

Sectors Impacted: Energy and Mining, Marine Construction and Facilities, Marine Technology, Marine Transportation, Renewable Living Resources, Ship and Boat Building, Tourism and Recreation

14.2 / *Sustainably Manage and Protect Marine Ecosystems*

A variety of factors from marine pollution to biodiversity loss and habitat degradation affect the resilience of marine ecosystems. Healthy and productive ocean ecosystems are vital to ocean sustainability and underpin the Blue Economy.²³⁵ The blue economy simply refers to “the transition toward a human-ocean centered relationship where humankind would be living with the ocean and from the ocean in a sustainable way.”²³⁶ It highlights the importance of oceans to economic growth and sustainable development.

As previously discussed, many ocean industry sectors can affect or are affected by marine ecosystem health. Healthy marine ecosystems are particularly important for industry sectors that rely directly on ocean resources such as fish, shellfish, marine mega-fauna, and coral reefs. For this reason the Renewable Living Resources and the Tourism and Recreation sectors are among the industries most affected by adverse changes in ocean health. Additionally, since this target includes provisions related to strengthening the resilience of marine ecosystems and promotes restoration efforts, this target also affects the Marine Construction and Facilities sector.

Just as some sectors are affected by marine ecosystem health other sectors, namely the Energy and Mining sector and the Marine Transportation sector, are often criticized for their marine ecosystem impacts. Extractive activities affiliated with oil and gas exploitation, near shore mining, dredging, and seabed mining can significantly impact and alter marine ecosystems. Similarly, marine ecosystem health can be adversely affected by the introduction of invasive alien species. These invasive alien species, which are often introduced through vectors such ballast water discharges and hull fouling, can alter the species composition of marine ecosystems resulting in the loss of biodiversity, have negative human health implications, and can be detrimental to tourism and fishing activities.²³⁷

²³⁴ *Rio Ocean Declaration*. (2012), *supra* note 81

²³⁵ IOC/UNESCO et al. (2011), *supra* note 7

²³⁶ *Ibid.*

²³⁷ Max, N., et al.(2003), *supra* note 87

A variety of actions could be taken by national governments to achieve healthy marine ecosystems. One way national governments can achieve this target is by using non-governmental organization (NGO) initiatives, such as the Ocean Health Index (OHI), to inform decision-making processes. The OHI is collaborative effort that assesses all dimensions of ocean health –biological, physical, economic, and social– on an annual basis.²³⁸ While the OHI does not actually manage or protect marine ecosystems, scores from the OHI are designed to help inform policy and management decisions for the world’s oceans.²³⁹ Other methodologies for assessing the health of marine ecosystems that help inform ocean management decisions that may affect ocean industry activities include the use of fisheries performance indicators and Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area Criteria.²⁴⁰

Companies like Jet Blue have already recognized the connection between healthy ecosystems and business profits. In partnership with the Ocean Foundation, Jet Blue launched a project called “Eco-earning: A shore thing” that determined the economic value of clean beaches in the Caribbean by assessing the relationship between coastal ecosystem health and revenue per available seat mile.²⁴¹

Overall, there is an ongoing trend in ocean governance toward addressing healthy and productive ocean ecosystems through an ecosystem-based management approach. This ecosystem-based management approach is a strategy for natural resource management that views ecosystems holistically and recognizes humans are both part of ecosystems and have impacts on the environment.

Sectors Impacted: Business Support and Professional Services, Energy and Mining, Marine Construction and Facilities, Marine Transportation, Renewable Living Resources, Tourism and Recreation

14.3 / *Minimize Ocean Acidification*

Ocean acidification describes the alteration of the ocean’s chemistry as a result of absorbing carbon dioxide emissions. It affects a variety of marine organisms from mollusks to phytoplankton by inhibiting the growth of calcium based shells and skeletons. As it affects the organisms that form the base of the ocean food chain, ocean acidification poses a significant problem to the Renewable

²³⁸ Blasiak, R., et al. (2014), *supra* note 88

²³⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁴¹ The Ocean Foundation, *supra* note 91

Living Resources sector. These impacts to the base of the ocean food web are only exacerbated at higher latitudes where colder water enhances carbon dioxide solubility.²⁴² As cold-water habitats in northern latitudes are home to some of the world's most productive fisheries, the Renewable Living Resources sector has clear incentives to seeing this target achieved.²⁴³

Ocean acidification also affects rates of coral reef accretion resulting in potential decreases in coral reef coverage. These declines in coral reef coverage not only affect fisheries, but are also a threat to the Tourism and Recreation sector as the "loss of coral reefs will damage the tourism potential of many areas."²⁴⁴

Actions to combat ocean acidification will largely fall under the domain of governments, since efforts to address ocean acidification require nations to address carbon dioxide emissions. However, while governments will be the primary authority regarding efforts to address ocean acidification, the ocean business community can contribute to scientific cooperation through the provision of data.

Sectors Impacted: Business Support and Professional Services, Marine Technology, Renewable Living Resources, Tourism and Recreation

14.4 / Effectively Regulate IUU Fishing

IUU fishing has been identified as one of the major drivers in the decline of ocean health.²⁴⁵ It undermines international and national efforts to manage fish stocks, preventing sustainable fisheries. Furthermore, it harms those companies within the Renewable Living Resources sector that comply with existing fishing regulations.

As this target relates directly to fisheries, it requires the involvement of the Renewable Living Resources sector. While national governments may improve enforcement of existing policies or create additional regulations, these regulations will be ineffective unless all members of the fishing community comply.

Sectors Impacted: Business Support and Professional Services, Renewable Living Resources

²⁴² IOC/UNESCO et al. (2011), *supra* note 7

²⁴³ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁵ Global Ocean Commission. (2014), *supra* note 2

14.5 / *Conserve 10% of Marine and Coastal Areas*

MPAs are a common strategy for marine conservation. They govern how marine resources in a given area can be used by establishing regulations that allow or prohibit a range of activities.²⁴⁶ Depending on the type of MPA there are variable levels of protection and regulation. For example, no-take MPAs prohibit all extractive activities while other types of MPAs may allow for multiple uses. Generally, MPAs are associated with the protection of critical habitats, providing a refuge for rare, endangered, or economically important species, and supporting fisheries through increasing fish catches in the areas adjacent to MPAs.

In terms of achieving this target, national governments have both the responsibility and authority to establish MPAs. While ocean industries are not responsible for the creation of MPAs, they should be aware of this target as the creation of MPAs can affect industry activities. It is therefore in the ocean business community's best interests to participate in ongoing discussions regarding the establishment of MPAs. Involvement in the creation of MPAs can ensure that national governments take industry perspectives into account. This target of conserving at least 10% of coastal and marine areas is also upheld under the Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Target 11.

Sectors Impacted: Business Support and Professional Services, Energy and Mining, Marine Construction and Facilities, Marine Transportation, Renewable Living Resources, Tourism and Recreation

14.6 / *Prohibit Fisheries Subsidies that Contribute to IUU Fishing*

Overcapacity and overfishing are two problems commonly associated with fisheries management. In what is generally described as “too many vessels and too little fish,” overcapacity relates not only to the number of vessels but also the type and sophistication of fishing gear.²⁴⁷ Fisheries subsidies are commonly identified as a major contributor to the issue of overcapacity.^{248, 249} By subsidizing the cost of fuel and offering grants for new fishing vessels, subsidies “create perverse incentives for continued fishing in the face of declining catches.”²⁵⁰

²⁴⁶ WWF. *supra* note 96

²⁴⁷ Global Ocean Commission. (2014), *supra* note 2

²⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁹ Arnason, R., et al. (2009). *supra* note 99

²⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

Similar to Target 14.4, which deals with the issue of IUU fishing, measures that address overcapacity and the elimination of subsidies are of direct relevance to the Renewable Living Resources sector. While the elimination of subsidies falls under the domain of national governments, it is in the interest of the Renewable Living Resources sector to be aware that actions may be taken on this issue, as changes in subsidies may affect business decisions.

Sectors Impacted: Renewable Living Resources

14.7 / Increase the Economic Benefits to SIDS

Small island developing states (SIDS) are highly vulnerable to both ocean degradation and climate change.²⁵¹ A majority of the essential infrastructure and settlements for these countries are situated along the coast or on small coral islands.²⁵² As a result of their small size, remoteness, and limited natural resource base, SIDS face a variety of unique development challenges.^{253, 254} They are often dependent on ocean and coastal activities, such as fisheries and tourism, for income. More recently, many are looking at the potential economic benefits of seabed mining in their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs).

Capacity building efforts and financial support for SIDS and least developed countries (LDCs) will largely result from bilateral agreements between national governments and arrangements with multilateral organizations. However, there is potential for ocean business community involvement with ocean use agreements, such as fisheries partnership agreements.²⁵⁵ These ocean use agreements would “ensure that benefits derived from the sustainable use of resources in the EEZs of SIDS and developing coastal countries accrue to them.”²⁵⁶

Sectors Impacted: Business Support and Professional Services, Renewable Living Resources, Tourism and Recreation

14.a / Increase Scientific Knowledge

Scientific knowledge underpins many ocean policies. As these policies establish rules and regulations for ocean industries, it is in the interest of the ocean business community to ensure that the best scientific information available is used for policy decisions. In general, “ocean industries also have a huge potential to collect oceanographic and atmospheric data that contribute to better

²⁵¹ IOC/UNESCO et al. (2011), *supra* note 7

²⁵² *Ibid.*

²⁵³ UNEP. (2014), *supra* note 103

²⁵⁴ UNGA. (2012), *supra* note 104

²⁵⁵ *Rio Ocean Declaration*. (2012), *supra* note 81

²⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

modeling and predicting ocean conditions, extreme weather events, and climate change that impact economies and livelihoods.”²⁵⁷

Efforts to improve scientific knowledge and develop research capacity build upon preexisting commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Criteria and Guidelines on The Transfer of Marine Technology.²⁵⁸

Sectors Impacted: Business Support and Professional Services, Energy and Mining, Marine Construction and Facilities, Marine Technology, Marine Transportation, Renewable Living Resources, Tourism and Recreation

14.b / Provide Access to Small-scale Fishers

Small-scale fishers are incredibly important for achieving food security and poverty alleviation.²⁵⁹ They account for “about 90% of the worlds 39.4 million capture fishers...[and] produce half of all global fish catches” for human consumption.²⁶⁰ In general, small-scale fishers suffer from marginalization and unequal power relations.²⁶¹ Furthermore, they are often characterized by remote location, disadvantaged access to markets, and lack of alternative livelihoods.²⁶² “In many places... there is increasingly high interdependence or competition between small-scale fisheries and other sectors. These other sectors can often have stronger political or economic influence.”²⁶³

Similar to the broader Renewable Living Resources sector, small-scale fishers are highly dependent on healthy marine ecosystems and resources. This reliance on healthy marine ecosystems is fundamental to small-scale fishers’ livelihoods and capacity to contribute to human-wellbeing.²⁶⁴

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) recently released a report on international guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries. These voluntary guidelines are designed to promote the contribution of small-scale fishers to equitable development and provide guidance for improving fisheries governance.²⁶⁵

²⁵⁷ IOC/UNESCO et al. (2011), *supra* note 7

²⁵⁸ Global Ocean Forum. (2014), *supra* note 50

²⁵⁹ FAO. (2014), *supra* note 109

²⁶⁰ Franz, N. (2014), *supra* note 110

²⁶¹ FAO. (2014), *supra* note 109

²⁶² *Ibid.*

²⁶³ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

Sectors Impacted: Business Support and Professional Services, Renewable Living Resources

14.c / Ensure the Full Implementation of International Law

While there are many international treaties that pertain to oceans and marine resources, this means of implementation focuses specifically on the application of international law as reflected in UNCLOS.²⁶⁶ UNCLOS is the globally agreed treaty for ocean governance. Ensuring the full implementation of this international law is in the interest of the ocean business community as it creates a level playing field for all nations and the global ocean business community. It is far easier to comply with a universal set of regulations than a patchwork of different national standards.

The responsibility to ensure the full implementation of international law lies with national governments.

Sectors Impacted: All

Suggested Strategic Actions for the Ocean SDG

Included below is a list of suggested strategic actions for the Ocean SDG. These strategic actions are the result of a literature review of the post-2015 development agenda and the MDGs. They are adapted from frameworks for business engagement with the MDGs, reports assessing the role of business in the post-2015 development agenda, as well as suggestions based on personal knowledge of ocean policy.^{267, 268} It is worth noting that these suggestions are not intended to be all encompassing, but rather are intended to serve as examples should the ocean business community elect to engage with the Ocean SDG.

²⁶⁶ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

²⁶⁷ Nelson, J., & Prescott, D. (2008), *supra* note 4

²⁶⁸ Lucci, P. (2012), *supra* note 5

Table 5: Strategic Actions for the Ocean SDG^{269, 270}

Strategic Actions for the Ocean SDG		
Target	Target Description	Suggested Strategic Actions for the Ocean Business Community
14.1	Prevent Marine Pollution	Engage in global dialogue on marine pollution; assess compliance with existing frameworks such as MARPOL; engage in efforts to address emerging pollution concerns such as ocean noise; participate in the World Ocean Council (WOC) Marine Sound Working Group
		Understand and manage direct environmental impacts
		Support international environmental NGOs and campaigns; such as the Declaration of the Global Plastics Associations for Solutions on Marine Litter; Nets to Energy; and the International Ocean Noise Coalition
		Support technology development and transfer; specifically the development of clean technologies that reduce pollution
		Spread responsible ocean business standards and practices
14.2	Sustainably Manage and Protect Marine Ecosystems	Understand and manage direct environmental impacts, through practices such as natural capital accounting, supply chain management, and greenhouse gas reporting
		Support international environmental NGOs and campaigns; such as the OHI and fisheries performance indicators
		Support coastal restoration efforts
14.3	Minimize Ocean Acidification	Engage in global dialogue on climate change, specifically the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
		Invest in product and process innovation
		Support the collection of ocean scientific information
14.4	Effectively Regulate IUU Fishing	Engage in international and regional dialogues related to fisheries management; assess compliance with existing frameworks such as Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and the UN Straddling Stocks Agreement
		Support technology development and transfer, such as vessel monitoring systems and other technologies that reduce IUU fishing practices
		Support efforts to strengthen government and institutional capacity
14.5	Conserve 10% of Marine and Coastal Areas	Engage in discussions related to the creation of MPAs
		Encourage and facilitate cross-sector dialogues
14.6	Prohibit Fisheries Subsidies that Contribute to IUU Fishing	Engage in dialogues pertaining to fisheries subsidies
14.7	Increase the Economic Benefits to SIDS	Support technology development and transfer to SIDS and LDCs
		Support efforts to strengthen government and institutional capacity
14.a	Increase Scientific Knowledge	Support technology development and transfer
		Contribute to the collection of ocean scientific data
14.b	Provide Access to Small-scale Fishers	Adopt voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries
14.c	Ensure the Full Implementation of international Law	Advocate for full international participation of all states in UNCLOS

²⁶⁹ Nelson, J., & Prescott, D. (2008), *supra* note 4

²⁷⁰ Lucci, P. (2012), *supra* note 5

Analysis of Other Relevant Goals

Goal 1: End Poverty

Poverty is a crosscutting issue with numerous implications for sustainable development. In the context of oceans, the goal to end poverty in all of its forms everywhere is important as “oceans provide multiple opportunities for addressing poverty, through a range of economic sectors.”²⁷¹ For example, activities associated with fisheries, aquaculture, and offshore energy provide opportunities for income generation either through direct employment or the indirect contribution to other sectors.²⁷²

Target 1.5 is particularly relevant to oceans as it relates to reducing climate-change associated vulnerabilities for the most susceptible populations. A number of factors such as stronger hurricanes/typhoons/cyclones, sea level rise, and ocean acidification affect communities in coastal and island nations.²⁷³

From a business standpoint, “business does better when the world does better.”²⁷⁴ Thus, international efforts to alleviate poverty directly affect businesses as poverty alleviation efforts address factors that undermine a suitable business environment such as disease, strife, environmental degradation, illiteracy, and corrupt government practices.²⁷⁵ Moreover, issues associated with poverty are increasingly interlinked with other issues of international concern such as peace and security.²⁷⁶

Sectors Impacted: All

Goal 2: Achieve Food Security

Food security refers to enabling “access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life.”²⁷⁷ With over 4.2 billion people receiving 15% of their protein intake from fish and fishery products, the world’s oceans have profound implications for food security and nutrition.²⁷⁸

²⁷¹ IOC/UNESCO et al. (2011), *supra* note 7

²⁷² *Ibid.*

²⁷³ Global Ocean Forum. (2014), *supra* note 54

²⁷⁴ United Nations Global Compact. (2013), *supra* note 36

²⁷⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁶ Nelson, J., & Prescott, D. (2008), *supra* note 4

²⁷⁷ WHO, *supra* note 127

²⁷⁸ IOC/UNESCO et al. (2011), *supra* note 7

Target 2.3 relates to doubling the incomes of small-scale food producers, including fishers and aquaculture, through equal access to resources and knowledge.²⁷⁹

Sectors Impacted: Renewable Living Resources

Goal 6: Ensure Water and Sanitation for All

Aquatic ecosystems such as wetlands, rivers, aquifers, and lakes are linked to the ocean. Thus, efforts to reduce pollution and restore these ecosystems are of direct relevance to oceans as they have consequences for ocean health. Targets 6.3, 6.5, and 6.6 are the most applicable targets under this goal to oceans as they relate to improving water quality by reducing pollution, implementing integrated water resources management, and protecting and restoring water related ecosystems.²⁸⁰

Economic sectors that depend on healthy ocean ecosystems, and the living resources they support, are most affected by this SDG.

Sectors Impacted: Marine Construction and Facilities, Renewable Living Resources, Tourism and Recreation

Goal 7: Ensure Access to Energy

Oceans have immense potential for supplying energy. Energy can be generated from offshore oil and gas deposits, offshore wind, tidal, ocean currents, waves, and thermal gradients. Applicable targets from this goal include Target 7.2, which relates to increasing the contribution of renewable energy to the overall global energy supply, and the Means of Implementation 7.a, which relates to promoting “clean energy research including renewable energy... and energy efficiency.”²⁸¹

This goal is particularly relevant to the Energy and Mining Sector.

Sectors Impacted: Energy and Mining

Goal 8: Promote Sustainable Economic Growth

Sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth is of direct interest to ocean businesses, particularly in the context of a Blue Economy. In order to enable sustainable economic growth governments must promote domestic markets and capital formation, invest in infrastructure, and encourage international trade.²⁸²

²⁷⁹ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

²⁸⁰ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

²⁸¹ *Ibid.*

²⁸² ICC, *supra* note 62

Relevant targets include Target 8.4, which promotes “global resource efficiency in consumption and production” and “[decoupling] economic growth from environmental degradation,” and Target 8.9, which relates to policies that promote sustainable tourism.²⁸³

Sectors Impacted: All, Tourism and Recreation is specifically addressed

Goal 9: Build Resilient Infrastructure

Resilient Infrastructure, such as ports, roads, and reliable energy, is required for businesses to operate effectively.²⁸⁴

This goal is particularly relevant to all ocean industry sectors, as they all rely on ports and coastal infrastructure. Target 9.1, which encourages the development of quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure, is of particular interest to the ocean business community.²⁸⁵

Sectors Impacted: All

Goal 10: Reduce Inequality Among Countries

Inequality within and among countries poses a significant challenge to poverty alleviation and sustainable development. This goal addresses country’s varying capacity to address sustainable development concerns, such as the sustainable development of coastal and ocean resources.

Target 10.6 relates to representation of developing countries in decision-making processes to allow for more effective, accountable, and legitimate institutions.²⁸⁶

Sectors Impacted: All

Goal 11: Make Cities Sustainable

With more than a third of the world’s population living within 100 kilometers of the coast, making human settlements resilient and sustainable is directly applicable to oceans.²⁸⁷ Moreover, as all industry sectors depend on ports and coastal infrastructure, this goal is also applicable to the ocean business community.

²⁸³ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

²⁸⁴ Business and Industry Major Group. (2014), *supra* note 134

²⁸⁵ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

²⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁷ IOC/UNESCO et al. (2011), *supra* note 7

Target 11.5 relates to reducing the number of people affected by water-related disasters.²⁸⁸ This is particularly important for ocean industries that are located or operate in vulnerable coastal or island communities.²⁸⁹

Sectors Impacted: All

Goal 12: Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production

Efforts to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns are of direct relevance to the ocean business community. In order to ensure long-term economic prosperity, natural resources must be managed efficiently.²⁹⁰

Targets 12.2, 12.4, and 12.6 are particularly relevant for ocean industries. These targets respectively deal with the “sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources,” the “environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes,” and the “adoption of sustainable practices and integrating sustainability into [a company’s] reporting cycle.”²⁹¹

Sectors Impacted: All

Goal 13: Combat Climate Change

Climate change and its associated affects pose an enormous threat to maintaining healthy and resilient ocean ecosystems. With effects ranging from elevated sea-surface temperatures and ocean acidification to sea level rise and increased severity of natural disasters, climate change is projected to have a significant impact on both marine ecosystem services and coastal areas. These effects not only have implications for marine biodiversity, but also have far-reaching consequences for coastal livelihoods and infrastructure.

All targets are relevant to ocean management.

Sectors Impacted: All

Goal 15: Protect Terrestrial Ecosystems

While the focus of Goal 15 is protecting terrestrial ecosystems, this goal does include targets that are relevant to both ocean management and the ocean business community.

²⁸⁸ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

²⁸⁹ Global Ocean Forum. (2014), *supra* note 50

²⁹⁰ Business and Industry Major Group. (2014), *supra* note 134

²⁹¹ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

For instance, Target 15.1 addresses the restoration of terrestrial ecosystems such as wetlands.²⁹² As ecosystems are interlinked, the health of terrestrial ecosystems does have implications for marine ecosystems.²⁹³ Other targets under Goal 15 that are applicable to oceans include Target 15.6, which addresses the “fair and equitable sharing of benefits from... genetic resources,” and Target 15.8, which addresses efforts to reduce the impact of invasive alien species.²⁹⁴ Despite being included under Goal 15, which focuses on protecting terrestrial ecosystems, Target 15.8 is relevant to ocean management as it specifically mentions “[preventing] the introduction and significantly [reducing] the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems.”²⁹⁵

Sectors Impacted: Marine Construction and Facilities, Renewable Living Resources, Tourism and Recreation

Goal 16: Promote Peaceful Societies

Factors such as peace and stability, the rule of law, good governance, and the absence of corruption reflected in Goal 16 are all vital to the ocean business community as they enable an operating environment conducive for businesses.²⁹⁶ For instance, a stable macroeconomic and regulatory environment allows companies to be aware of the regulations they must comply with while the rule of law ensures efficient law enforcement systems contributing to the protection of property rights.²⁹⁷ Other factors that are important for an enabling environment covered by Goal 16 include accountable and transparent government practices, absence of corruption, and participatory decision-making.²⁹⁸

Sectors Impacted: All

Goal 17: Strengthen Means of Implementation

Goal 17 focuses on general means of implementation for the SDGs. It focuses on several categories of actions such as “finance, technology, capacity building, trade, systemic issues, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and data, monitoring and accountability.”²⁹⁹ These means of implementation are important to the ocean business community as they help improve policy coherence and consistent application.

²⁹² *Ibid.*

²⁹³ Global Ocean Forum. (2014), *supra* note 50

²⁹⁴ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

²⁹⁵ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

²⁹⁶ Kantrow, L. (2014). *supra* note 144

²⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁹⁸ UNGA. (2014), *supra* note 1

²⁹⁹ *Ibid.*

Important targets include Targets 17.3, 17.6, 17.9, and 17.16. These targets relate to mobilizing financial resources for developing countries, improving knowledge and technology sharing, facilitating capacity building for sustainable development, and enhancing multi-stakeholder partnerships.³⁰⁰

Sectors Impacted: All

Suggested Strategic Actions for Other Relevant SDGs

As before these strategic actions for the other relevant SDGs are adapted from frameworks for business engagement with the MDGs, reports assessing the role of business in the post-2015 development agenda, as well as suggestions based on personal knowledge of ocean policy.^{301, 302}

It is worth noting that these suggestions are not intended to be all encompassing, but rather are intended to serve as examples should the ocean business community elect to engage with the other relevant SDGs.

³⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

³⁰¹ Nelson, J., & Prescott, D. (2008), *supra* note 4

³⁰² Lucci, P. (2012), *supra* note 5

Table 6: Strategic Actions for Other Relevant SDGs^{303, 304}

Strategic Actions for Other Relevant SDGs		
Goal	Goal Description	Suggested Strategic Actions for the Ocean Business Community
1	<i>End Poverty</i>	Establish institutional and physical infrastructure
		Provide access to affordable goods and services
		Provide access to economic opportunity and income generating activities
		Support efforts to improve government capacity and the domestic private sector
2	<i>Achieve Food Security</i>	Support technology development and information transfer
		Spread responsible ocean business standards and practices
6	<i>Ensure Water and Sanitation for All</i>	Understand and manage direct environmental impacts
		Support international NGO and environmental campaigns
		Support habitat restoration efforts
7	<i>Ensure Access to Energy</i>	Support technology development and transfer
		Spread responsible ocean business standards and practices
		Invest in product and process innovation
8	<i>Promote Sustainable Economic Growth</i>	Support government efforts to achieve a sound enabling environment for businesses
		Invest in product and process innovation
		Spread responsible ocean business standards practices
		Support technology development and transfer
		Establish physical and institutional infrastructure
		Support education
9	<i>Build Resilient Infrastructure</i>	Establish physical and institutional infrastructure
10	<i>Reduce Inequality Among countries</i>	Support efforts to improve government capacity
11	<i>Make Cities Sustainable</i>	Establish physical and institutional infrastructure
		Support technology development and transfer
12	<i>Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production</i>	Address the challenge of sustainable consumption and production
		Understand and manage environmental impacts
13	<i>Combat Climate Change</i>	Engage in global dialogue on climate change, specifically the UNFCCC
		Support the collection of scientific information
		Spread responsible ocean business standards and practices
		Support technology development and transfer
		Invest in product and process innovation
15	<i>Protect Terrestrial Ecosystems</i>	Support habitat restoration efforts
		Support technology development and transfer
		Understand and manage environmental impacts
16	<i>Promote Peaceful Societies</i>	Support government efforts to achieve a sound enabling environment
17	<i>Strengthen Means of Implementation</i>	Support efforts to strengthen government and institutional capacity
		Support technology development and transfer
		Spread responsible ocean business standards and practices
		Encourage and gather ocean scientific data

³⁰³ Nelson, J., & Prescott, D. (2008), *supra* note 4

³⁰⁴ Lucci, P. (2012), *supra* note 5

References

- Arnason, R., Kelleher, K., and Willmann, R. (2009). *The Sunken Billions: The Economic Justification for Fisheries Reform*, World Bank and FAO (Agriculture and Rural Development series).
- Bapna, M. (2013). 4 issues to Watch: Recommendations for the Post-2015 Development Agenda. World Resources Institute. <http://www.wri.org/blog/2013/05/4-issues-watch-recommendations-post-2015-development-agenda>
- Benson, E. (2013). 'Post-2015' international development goals: Who wants what and why *IIED Issue Paper*. London: International Institute for Environment and Development.
- Blasiak, R., Anderson, J. L., Bridgewater, P., Furuya, K., Halpern, B. S., Kurokura, H., Nobuyuki, Y., Morishita, J., and Minohara, A. (2014). Paradigms of sustainable ocean management. *Marine Policy* 48, 206-211. doi: 10.1016/j.marpol.2014.03.021
- Boltz, F., Turner, W.R., Larsen, F.W., Scholz, I., and Guarin, A. (2013). Post 2015: Reconsidering Sustainable Development Goals: Is the Environment Merely a Dimension?. Bonn, DIE (Briefing paper 4/2013).
- Brundtland, G. H. (1987). *Report of the World Commission on environment and development: our common future*. United Nations.
- Bureau of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC). (2015). Technical report by the Bureau of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) on the process of the development of an indicator framework for the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda. (Working Draft). [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/6754Technical%20report%20of%20the%20UNSC%20Bureau%20\(final\).pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/6754Technical%20report%20of%20the%20UNSC%20Bureau%20(final).pdf)
- Business and Industry Major Group. (2014). The Business and Industry's vision and priorities for the Sustainable Development Goals. (Major Group Position Paper)
- Business Victoria. Evaluate business risk. State Government of Victoria. <http://www.business.vic.gov.au/disputes-disasters-and-succession-planning/how-to-manage-risk-in-your-business/types-of-business-risks>
- Druel, E., & Gjerde, K. M. (2014). Sustaining marine life beyond boundaries: Options for an implementing agreement for marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. *Marine Policy*, 49, 90-97. doi: 10.1016/j.marpol.2013.11.023
- Elliott, M. (2013). The 10-tenets for integrated, successful and sustainable marine management. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 74(1), 1-5. doi: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2013.08.001
- Epstein, M.J. (2008). *Making Sustainability Work: Best Practices in Managing and Measuring Corporate Social, Environmental, and Economic Impacts*. Sheffield, UK: Greenleaf Publishing and Berrett-Koehler Publishers, INC.
- Federal Financial Institution Examination Council. Reputation Risk. IT Examination Handbook InfoBase. <http://ithandbook.ffiec.gov/it-booklets/wholesale-payment-systems/wholesale-payment-systems-risk-management/reputation-risk.aspx>
- Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO). (2014). Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. Rome, FAO (COFI/2014/Inf.10).
- Franz, N. (2014). FAO Adopts Small Scale Fisheries Guidelines. Global Partnership for Oceans. <http://www.globalpartnershipforoceans.org/fao-adopts-small-scale-fisheries-guidelines>
- Fukuda-Parr, S. (2013). Global Development Goal Setting as a Policy Tool for Global Governance: Intended and Unintended Consequences. International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth, UNDP, working paper 108.
- Global Ocean Commission. (2013). A sustainable development goal for the global ocean. Global Ocean Commission (Policy Options Paper #1).
- Global Ocean Commission. (2014). From Decline to Recovery: A Rescue Package for the Global Ocean. Global Ocean Commission.
- Global Ocean Commission. (2015). Proposed Elements of Indicators for SDG Goal 14 – Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources. http://www.globaloceancommission.org/wp-content/uploads/GOC_Post2015_Ocean-indicators_final.pdf
- Global Ocean Forum. (2014). UN OWG Adopts Proposal for Global Sustainable Development Goals Including Oceans. Global Ocean Forum (Global Ocean Forum News)
- Global Water Challenge. <http://www.globalwaterchallenge.org>
- High-level Panel of Eminent Persons. (2013). A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development.
- Holthus, P.F. (1999). Sustainable Development Of Oceans And Coasts: The Role Of The Private Sector. *UN Natural Resources Forum Journal*. Vol 23 (2):169-176
- Holthus, P.F. (2015). The Economic Dimension of Ocean Sustainable Development [Power Point Slides]. http://www.un.org/depts/los/consultative_process/icp16_presentations/Holthus.pdf
- Houghton, K. (2014). Identifying new pathways for ocean governance: The role of legal principles in areas beyond national jurisdiction. *Marine Policy*, 49, 118-126. doi: 10.1016/j.marpol.2014.04.007
- International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). ICC Perspectives on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. ICC.

- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission/ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, International Maritime Organization, Food and Agricultural Organization, and the United Nations Development Programme (IOC/UNESCO, IMO, FAO, & UNDP). (2011). A Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability. Paris: IOC/UNESCO
- Independent Research Forum. (2013). Post-2015: framing a new approach to sustainable development. (Policy Paper)
- Kantrow, L. (2014). Post Rio+20: Where Do We Stand 21 Months Later? [Power Point Slides].
<http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=0CCUQFjAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww2.nycbar.org%2Fpdf%2Fevents%2Fnyc-bar-presentation-post-rio-april2014-l.-kantrow.ppt&ei=wGSDVN3BoGogwT-oINQ&usg=AFQjCNFs4eaVo-ig-AgM4ej2iQGgeV4EIA&sig2=b-MoThhsyZO6ycBLtsA2DQ&bvm=bv.80642063,d.eXY>
- Lucci, P. (2012). Post-2015 MDGs What role for business?. London, Overseas Development Institute (ODI).
- Max, N., Williamson, A., Agüero, M., Gonzalez, E., and Geeves, W. (2003). Marine invasive alien species: a threat to global biodiversity. *Marine Policy* 27, 313-323.
- Nelson, J. (2004). The Public Role of Private Enterprise: Risks, Opportunities, and New Models of Engagement. Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative Working Paper No. 1. Cambridge, MA: John F. Kennedy School of government, Harvard University.
- Nelson, J., & Prescott, D. (2008). Business and the Millennium Development Goals: A Framework for Action: International Business Leaders Forum and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- Rio Ocean Declaration*. (2012). Paper presented at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- Samaniego, J., & Bárcena Ibarra, A. (2010). Millennium development goals: advances in environmentally sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Spitzer, H. and Martinuzzi, A. (2013). Methods and Tools for Corporate Impact Assessment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development. Vienna, European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN Case Study N°14).
- Stamatis, D.H. (2014). Introduction to risk and failures: tools and methodologies. Boca Raton: Taylor & Francis.
- Teisl, Mario F., Roe, Brian, and Hicks, Robert L. (2002). Can Eco-labels Tune a Market? Evidence from Dolphin-Safe Labeling. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* 43, 339-359.
- The Ocean Foundation. Jet Blue. <http://oceanfdn.org/partnerships/corporate/jetblue>
- Töpfer, K., Tubiana, L., Unger, S., & Rochette, J. (2014). Charting pragmatic courses for global ocean governance. *Marine Policy*, 49, 85-86. doi: 10.1016/j.marpol.2013.12.004
- Unilever. (2002). Unilever's Fish Sustainability Initiative.
http://www.unilever.com/images/Unilevers%20Fish%20Sustainability%20Initiative_tcm13-9157.pdf
- United Nations. Action 2015. We Can End Poverty: Millennium Development Goals and Beyond 2015. <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/beyond2015-overview.shtml>
- United Nations. Home. We Can End Poverty: Millennium Development Goals and Beyond 2015.
<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>
- United Nations. Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. [Post 2015 process Photo].
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>
- United Nations. (2014). The Millennium Development Goals Report 2014.
<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2014%20MDG%20report/MDG%202014%20English%20web.pdf>
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). (2011). 7 Critical Issues at Rio+20.
<http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?menu=123#oceans>
- United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS). (2015). Advance and unedited reporting material on the topic of focus of the sixteenth meeting of the informal consultative process. (A/70/50).
http://www.un.org/depts/los/consultative_process/documents/ICP-16_report.pdf
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). (2014). Emerging Issues for Small Island Developing States: results of the UNEP Foresight Process. Nairobi, Kenya UNEP.
- United Nations Foundation. [Processes feeding into the Post-2015 Development Agenda Diagram].
<http://www.unfoundation.org/assets/pdf/post-2015-process-slide-1114.pdf>
- United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). (2012). The Future We Want. (A/RES/66/288).
- United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). (2014). Report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. A/68/970. <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1579SDGs%20Proposal.pdf>
- United Nations Global Compact. (2013). Corporate Sustainability and the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda: Perspectives from UN Global Compact Participants on Global Priorities and How to Engage Business Towards Sustainable Development Goals. United Nations Global Compact.
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Global Compact. (2014). Engaging with the Private Sector in the Post-2015 Agenda: Consolidated Report on 2014 Consultations. UNIDO and UN Global Compact (Series of Dialogues on Means of Implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda).
- Visbeck, M., Kronfeld-Goharani, U., Neumann, B., Rickels, W., Schmidt, J., van Doorn, E., Matz-Luck, N., Proelss, A. (2014). A

- Sustainable Development Goal for the Ocean and Coasts: Global ocean challenges benefit from regional initiatives supporting globally coordinated solutions. *Marine Policy*, 49, 87-89.
doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2014.02.010
- Ward, T., & Phillips, B. (Eds.). (2009). *Seafood ecolabelling: principles and practice*. John Wiley & Sons.
<https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=wGhxzFX3rG4C&oi=fnd&pg=PA143&dq=McDonald%27s+and+Sustainable+Seafood&ots=LwN8le1VNj&sig=1YyhvvvCD1yuJfrZOSe4uFBY7So#v=onepage&q=McDonalds&f=false>
- Walmart. Working with Seafood Suppliers to Ensure Sustainable Seafood.
<http://corporate.walmart.com/article/working-with-seafood-suppliers-to-ensure-sustainable-seafood>
- World Health Organization. Food Security. <http://www.who.int/trade/glossary/story028/en/>
- World Ocean Council. <http://www.oceancouncil.org/site/>
- World Ocean Council (WOC). (2014). Report of the World Ocean Council Business Forum on Ocean Policy & Planning.
<http://www.oceancouncil.org/site/pdfs/BF%202014%20Report%20Final%20FINAL.pdf>
- World Wildlife Foundation (WWF). (2014).). The Case for MPAs.
http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/how_we_work/conservation/marine/protected_areas/